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AN  
HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL  
MEMOIR  
OF THE  
FAMILY OF POYNTZ,

BY  
SIR JOHN MACLEAN, F.S.A., &c.

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PART I.

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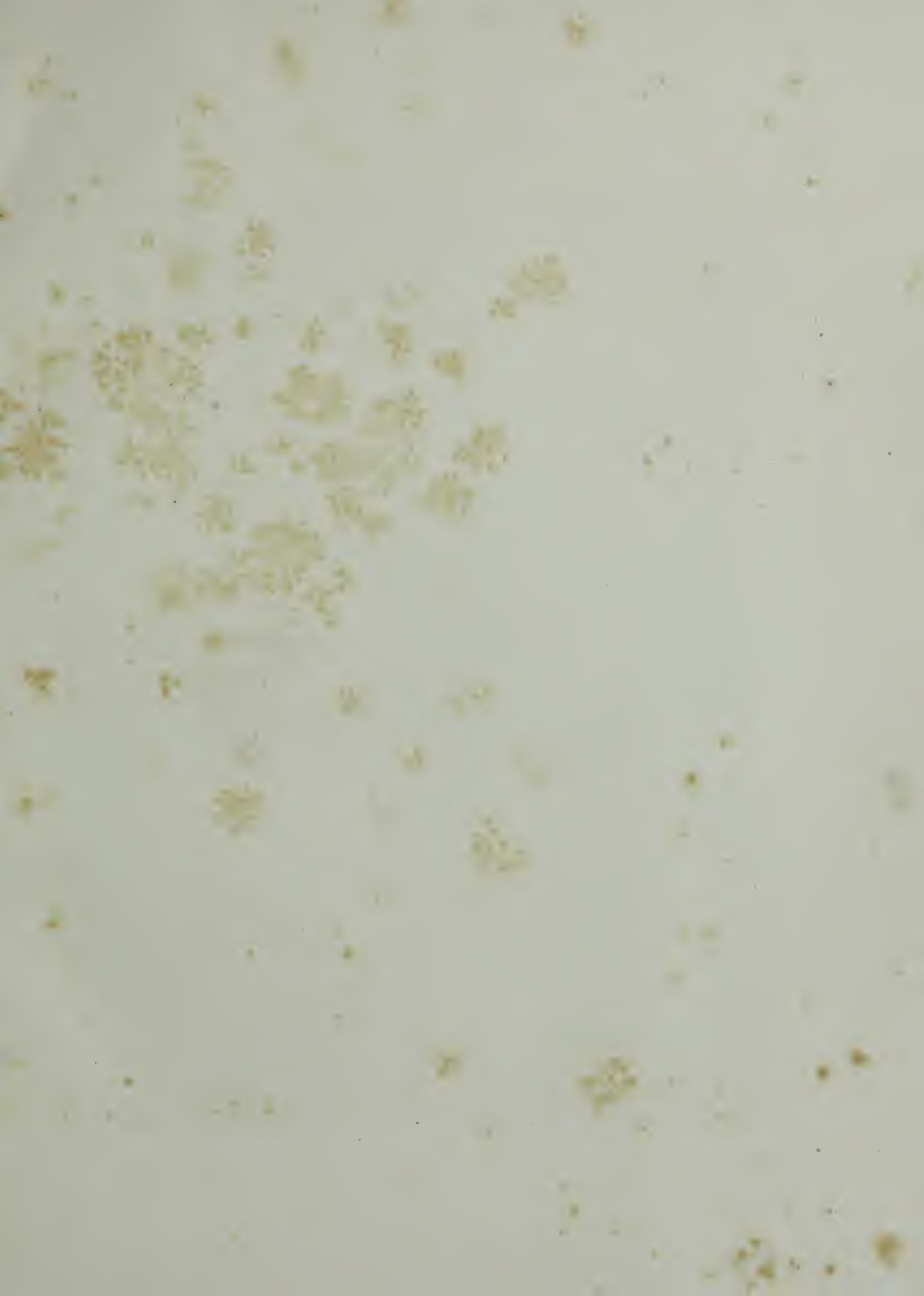
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## MEMOIR OF THE FAMILY OF POYNTZ.

### CHAPTER I.

The origin of the family of Poyntz, like that of many other ancient families, is covered by a thick veil which no genealogist has yet been able to raise. Several have made the attempt but, hitherto, without success. The earliest progenitor of the family of whom we have any certain historical knowledge is one Pons or Pontz. He is alleged, and probably with truth, to have formed one of the army of William of Normandy, or to have come over and settled in England soon after the Conquest; but we have no mention of him personally. He would seem to have had considerable grants of lands in different counties and to have died before 1086, for his fiefs had then passed to his sons, who are named in the Great Inquest, to whom we shall advert presently. But who was Pons or Pontz?

Mr. Arthur Clifford, in his "*Collectanea Cliffordiana*," has attempted to affiliate him, claiming for him a descent from William Count of Hiesmes, an illegitimate son of Richard I., Duke of Normandy. This William was the elder brother of Richard II., son of Richard I. by Gunnor, said to have been a lady of a distinguished Danish race. Saving his illegitimacy, therefore, he would have been the heir to the Ducal Crown, and if we are to believe William of Jumiges, and after him Wace, he was in this respect in no way inferior to his brother, for the former author states that Duke Richard I. did not marry Gunnor until after the birth of several of his children, and probably Richard was one of them. Whether or no it was from a knowledge of this circumstance and his belief in his superior claims to the Duchy does not appear, but it is said that he was forming treacherous designs against his brother, which coming to his brother's knowledge, he was seized and cast into the tower of Rouen, from which, after a confinement of five years, he escaped, and throwing himself at his brother's feet prayed for pardon, which was cordially and kindly granted, and Richard moreover bestowed upon him the county of Eu, together with the hand of the beautiful Leceline daughter of the noble Turketil, from which

marriage Mr. Clifford claims the descent of the family. He says: William Count of Eu had by his wife Esseline four sons, Robert his successor, who founded the Benedictine Abbey of Trefort and accompanied William the Conqueror to England; William, who was Count of Soisson; Hugh, Bishop of Lisieux in Normandy; and Pons who also went over to England where he settled and was the ancestor of the illustrious family of Clifford. We are not contesting this last mentioned fact, but shall at this stage confine our attention to the parentage of Pons. Upon this point we may state that we have no knowledge that William Count of Hiesmes and Eu had any other sons than Richard, Robert, and William shewn in the first pedigree in Lappenberg's "History of England under the Anglo-Norman Kings"; and the only authority quoted for this alleged important descent is a paper said to contain notes by old Mr. Clifford of Frampton (co. Glouc.) in 1602 relating to the Clifford Family. These notes, it is said, are probably drawn up by the writer from authentic documents in his possession. This, however, is not sufficient to satisfy any genealogist of the present day.

The author of "The Norman People" unhesitatingly gives another descent for Pons, saying he was descended either from Manno or Pontius, Barons or Princes of Pons in Saintonge, nobles of Gothic race and benefactors to Savigny, but he gives no authority for this affiliation.

In these circumstances we may, perhaps, be pardoned for indulging in a guess ourselves, for we do not presume to offer more than a conjecture. Pons or Pons, so far as we know, is not a Norman name, but would seem to be French. It was a prevailing name in the powerful and influential family of the Counts of Tholouse. Ponce succeeded William as the sixth Count in 919, and was a man greatly celebrated in the Chronicles of Tholouse. To him succeeded the Counts of St. Giles. Raymond II., Count of St. Giles, bought Tholouse in 1096. He greatly distinguished himself in the Holy Land in the first Crusade, especially at the capture of Tripoli. He had a son named Bertram who succeeded his father as Count of Tholouse in 1099. He also made himself famous in the Holy Land and was made Count of Tripoli in 1112. By Hela his wife, daughter of Eudo Count of Sicily, he had a son named Pons, who like his father and grandfather shewed himself a gallant soldier in the Holy War. He was one of the many christian knights who, with King Baldwin II., through an ambush fell into the hands of the Saracens at Edessa, were made prisoners and kept at hard labour. At the expiration of a year, however, they took courage, overpowered and slew their guards, seized the castle and departed with much booty. Pons was slain 1137 under the walls of his own Castle of

Monte Pelegrine in an engagement with the infidels. He married Cecilia, daughter of Louis VI., King of France, and relict of Tancred son of Eudo, called the Good Marquis. There was another Pons contemporary with the last, and his first cousin, son of Count Melguel, a house of great importance, and a nephew, like Pons last mentioned, of Raymond de St. Giles and Tholouse and godson of Pope Paschal II. He became a monk at Cluni and was elected Abbot in 1112, which office he was obliged to resign in 1125, and died at Rome, 23rd December, 1128.

These eminent members of the family of the name of Pons only are mentioned, no one of whom is likely to be the Pons in question, but from the prevalence of the name for so long a time it is not unlikely there might have been another so-called, less distinguished, who might have taken part in the invasion of England. We have no evidence to shew this, and only lay it before the reader as a possibility, and, if true, an ancestor at least as probable and as distinguished as either of those assigned to the family.

It is uncertain, as we have above stated, whether Pons formed one of the army of invasion, or whether like many other Normans he settled in England subsequently, but from the extent of his grants of lands in divers counties and for other reasons to be presently stated we consider the former most probable.

There is absolutely no trustworthy record of the leaders of the Norman army. Numerous lists have been put forward under the name of the Battle Abbey Roll, as many as ten or more, but they all differ both in respect to names and numbers, and bear evidence that they have been compiled by different persons. The writer of the greatest authority, and he was not a contemporary, though highly eulogised by Mr. Freeman for his general accuracy, was Robert Wace an Augustinian Canon of Bayeux before mentioned, born in 1100, and may perhaps be trusted as far as he goes, but after describing the battle of Senlac, and giving the names of the Barons present, he frankly acknowledges: "Many other barons there were whom I have not named, for I cannot give account of them all, nor can I tell of all the feats they did for I would be tedious. Neither can I give the names of all the barons, nor the surnames of all whom the Duke brought over from Normandy."<sup>1</sup> Would he had been less scrupulous! In the list of those who *followed* the Duke into England we do not find the name of Pons or Pontz. In the rhyming Chronicle, however, attributed to John Brompton, Abbot of Jorvaux,<sup>2</sup> there is a list of 240 names from which we make the following extract:—

<sup>1</sup> Roman de Rou.

<sup>2</sup> John Brompton became Abbot of Jorvaux in 16th Henry VI.



Merle & Mowbray.  
 Gornay & Courtenay.  
 Hanstlaing & Turnay.  
 Husee & Husay.

Pouchardon and Pomeray.  
 Longevil & Longespay.  
 Payns and Pontelarge.  
 Straunge & Sauuage.<sup>1</sup>

We do not find the name of Payns among the Domesday tenants in capite, and it becomes a question whether Payns is not a misprint or mistake for Poyns, which latter word would much better suit the rhythm of the text. On referring to Brompton's MS. in the British Museum we find the second letter is not "a" as printed, and is either "o" or a blotted "e."<sup>2</sup>

Sir Thomas D. Hardy, however, says of this MS.: "Whether John Brompton was the compiler or merely the owner of the chronicle is not known, but the latter is the more probable; at all events it must have been drawn up after the middle of the fourteenth century, as it contains many extracts from Higden, who is referred to. Whatever connexion John Brompton may have had with this work, it seems to have taken its present form at least after the middle of the fourteenth century; but it would appear from the mention of John of Ely, Bishop of Norwich (Coll. 747, line 28), with the declared intention of continuing it only to the time of Edward I., that its basis was a previous compilation, and, as it seems probable from certain internal notices, by a person connected with the diocese of Norwich."<sup>3</sup>

Brompton says that on account of the variation which he found in the names given at the font, such as Edward for Edmond, he had omitted them altogether.

Fox, in his "Acts and Monuments," printed another list by the Norman chronicler Tailleux, taken out of the "Annals of Normandy" in French, evidently derived from the same original as Brompton's. It contains 149 names "over and besides the great number of knights and esquires that were under them." And his second list is formed out of the "Ancient Chronicles of England," "touching the names of other Normans which seemed to remaine alive after the battle, and to be advanced in the signiories of this land," 224 in number including the names above quoted. In this we find the last four names are—

<sup>1</sup> Catalogus Normanorum, Du Chesne's "Historiæ Normanorum," p. 1026.

<sup>2</sup> Cott. MSS. Tiberius, xiii, p. 539.

<sup>3</sup> "Descriptive Catalogue of Materials relating to the History of Great Britain and Ireland," vol. ii, p. 540.

J. de Pountz.

R. Estrange.

R. de Pontlarge.

Tho. Savage.<sup>1</sup>

These remarks are made for what they are worth. It signifies little to our narrative whether Pons came with the Duke of Normandy, or was one of the many strangers who followed him into England. It would seem unquestionable that he had extensive grants of lands, and that he died before the Great Survey. He had issue five sons, Drogo or Dru, Walter, Richard, Osbern,<sup>2</sup> and Simon, the two elder of whom inherited his fiefs. Drogo filius Pontz at the time of the Domesday Survey held of the King in capite in Gloucestershire, in Lece or Leach, ten hides which had belonged to Cola; and Walter filius Ponz his brother also held ten hides in Lece which Earl Tostig had held. Drogo also held in this county ten hides in Frampton, which Ernesi had held, in which manor it was found that Roger de Laci unjustly held one hide of Drogo's land, and a burgess of Gloucester paid rent to this manor. Drogo had other manors in Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and Wilts, and moreover he held no fewer than seventy-three manors in Devonshire under Geoffry Bishop of Coutances.<sup>3</sup> He also held the manor of Swell in Gloucestershire of William de Ou and Roger de Toden.

Besides the ten hides which Walter filius Ponz held in Lece as stated above, and which has been identified as "Southrop," which having belonged to Earl Tostig would be *soke* free of the Hundred, Walter held in capite three manors in Oxfordshire; three hides in Eton, near Windsor, the Survey informs us, he had given to Westminster Abbey for his own soul. Walter also held in Gloucestershire of Thomas Archbishop of York a manor of twelve hides in Lece which, in the time of King Edward, had been held by the abbot and monks of Gloucester, which Eldred the Archbishop had taken from the abbey. Walter also held a small portion of land in the king's manor of Bampton in Oxfordshire.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Joseph Hunter, F.S.A., formerly one of the Assistant Keepers of the Public Records, and sometime a Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries, read a paper on the subject of the so called Battle Abbey Roll before the Sussex Archæological Society in 1852, the substance of which is given in the "Herald and Genealogist," vol. i.

<sup>2</sup> In 1130-1 Osbert filius Poinz paid 2s. in Gloucestershire, and 12s. in Buckinghamshire (Rot. Pip. 31st Hen. I.)

<sup>3</sup> Lysons says he seems to have had the largest possessions of any person in Devonshire, whereas, adds Ellis, in that county he is expressly named as the under tenant only of the Bishop of Coutances, (Domes. i, F. fo. 103) "Has. lxxiii terras tenet Drogo de Episcopo," and the lands are all in small quantities. "Introd. to Domesd.," i, p. 405.

Both Drogo and Walter died *sine prole*, and their lands descended to their brothers and their heirs, but as it would appear chiefly to the heirs of Richard the elder. During the period immediately following the Survey evidence as to the devolution of the Domesday manors is exceedingly scanty, but we are not left entirely without indications. The first glimpse we have is in the year after the Survey when the king signifies to Ulstan Bishop of Worcester, and William the son of Osbert [fitz Pons] and all his barons, &c., in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, that he had granted to God and St. Peter of Gloucester, and Serlo the Abbot and the monks of the same Church, all the lands which Thomas Archbishop of York unjustly held, viz., Leeche, Otington, and Stanedis (Stanediche).<sup>1</sup>

Richard Fitz Pons inherited the manor of Frampton, from which he gave two virgates of land to the Templars.<sup>2</sup> His eldest son Walter eventually assumed the name of Clifford, and his descendants continued to hold the manor for several centuries. He had two sons, Walter and Richard.

In 1144 Walter, son of Richard, son of Pontius, with the assent of Richard his brother, granted to Gilbert the abbot and the monks of St. Peter of Gloucester certain lands in Estleeche, held of Roger Earl of Hereford, in exchange for the manor of Glasbury which the abbot held of Roger of Thoeni, and this exchange was confirmed by King Stephen. Roger de Thoeny, whose steward Walter fitz Richard at this time was, Roger Earl of Hereford, and Walter de Clifford, whose father Walter had granted Estleeche to Abbot Gilbert and the monks of St. Peter, confirmed the same.<sup>3</sup> And not long afterwards Abbot Hameline in granting to his own man William Syreburne one virgate and six acres of land with a house which Orwi held in Estleeche specified that he should hold it as it had been held of the son of Pontius.<sup>4</sup>

The manor of Swell descended to Simon fitz Pons the younger son, who in the early part of the twelfth century granted to the Abbey of Tewkesbury in perpetual alms the tithe of all his demesne of Suella as well as of Aldebiz as of his other demesne, and that no controversy should subsequently arise between the Church of Tewkesbury and the Chaplain of Swell he gave to the same Chapel for ever one virgate of land in addition to the two virgates which it already had. A controversy, nevertheless, did arise, upon which a composition was made between the Church of Tewkesbury and Mathew

<sup>1</sup> "Hist. et Cartularium S. Petri, Gloucestræ," vol. ii, p. 107, iii, 263.

<sup>2</sup> Dugdale's "Mon." ii, p. 530.

<sup>3</sup> "Cart. Monas. S. Petri, Glouc.," vol. i, pp. 311, *et seq.*

<sup>4</sup> "Cart. Monas. S. Petri, Glouc.," vol. i, p. 269.



Chaplain of Swell, whereby it was agreed that the monks of Tewkesbury should receive all the tithes of the demesne of Swell, so, however, that the parishioners of the Chapel should put their sheep in the sheep-folds of the lord of Swell, and if in the pasture of the demesne they should pass the winter, the rector of the Chapel should receive the half of the tithe thereof and the monks the other half. The monks were also to receive all the tithes of the servants of the lord who should be in the sheep-fold of the Chapel of Swell 6d. for the place of Berthonæ which for a long while should remain in the village. They were, however, to be quit from their prestation for that year, in which the parishioners should have their sheep in the Berthona of the lord and in the demesne, although the Berthona should be removed; also a penalty of 100s. if the prestation is assigned. If either party should draw back from the composition it was to be given to that party who should abide by it.<sup>1</sup>

Simon fitz Pons had a son named Pons or Poncius, and when Henry II. by inquisition preparatory to his levying an aid, required his barons and tenants in capite to certify what number of knights' fees they owed respectively, and by whom such fees were held under them, specifying those which were of the old feoffment, that is, before the death of Henry I., and the new feoffment, William, Earl of Gloucester certified that Poncius fitz Simon held of the honour of Gloucester eight knights' fees of the old feoffment.<sup>2</sup> This Pons or Poncius had a son Nicholas, and in 1194-5 Nicholas Ponz in Gloucestershire gave 300 marks of benevolence towards the ransom of King Richard I.<sup>3</sup> from his imprisonment by the Duke of Austria, to be paid at 100 marks per annum, of which he had paid into the Treasury £50, and £150 remained due. He also rendered the same year an account for having the king's . . . of which he paid into the Treasury 10 marks, and there remained due £143 and half a mark.

It is an interesting fact, and perhaps affording a motive for this large gift, that Robert Earl of Gloucester gave lands in Camberwell to Reginald Pointz. He afterwards *signavit se cruce cum regi Ric.*, and gave all his share in the vill to his four nepotes, one of whom seems to have been Nicholas.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale's "Mon.," ii, p. 70.

<sup>2</sup> "Liber Niger," Hearne's Ed., 1728, vol. i, p. 162.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Pip., 6th Rich. I., Glouc.

<sup>4</sup> This is from a memorandum of the lands in Camberwell belonging to the Priory of Halliwell in Middlesex (Cott. MS. Vitell. F. 8), "Mon.," i, 533.

In 1201-2 Nicholas Poinz of the Honour of Gloucester, probably the Nicholas just mentioned, rendered an account of 23 marks of the second scutage, and of fine for knights not transferred, and for seven knights' fees;<sup>1</sup> and the same Nicholas rendered at the same time an account of 12s. 6d. of scutage of one knight's fee of the honour of Moreton.<sup>2</sup> It is also stated that he owed £9 6s. 3½d. of the farm of Carenton for half-a-year, and £10 10s. of the borough of Dunstore for half-a-year, but answered within, and is freed of the janitor of Dunster Castle 15s. 2½d. of half-a-year, and of the watchman of the same castle 15s. 2½d. for the same term, and so of the second half-year.<sup>3</sup> The fees here mentioned were doubtless the same fees held by Poncius fitz Simon some 40 years before. Nicholas Poinz and Johanna his wife on 29th January, 1218-9, gave five marks to have a weekly market on Thursday at their manor of Ametut,<sup>4</sup> which manor we have not been able to identify.

This Nicholas and his son Hugh, according to Banks, were amongst the rebel barons against King John.<sup>5</sup> That Nicholas was a devoted adherent of King Richard we have had evidence, and it is not surprising if he did not entertain the same feeling toward John.

In the MS. Cartulary of the Abbey of St. Augustine of Bristol, now preserved in the Muniment room of Berkeley Castle, there are five instruments relating to the possessions of this Nicholas Poinz and grants to the abbey, viz. :—

1. The first is a grant by Nicholas Poinz in consideration of the sum of 150 marks of silver of a moiety of all his arable land in Catebroc to be divided. In the field Rodwerlang the half towards the south; in the field Lodwerlang the half towards the north; in the field Wiferlang the half towards the south; also the half virgate of land near the bridge, nine men with all their services, chattels, and tenements which they hold of him; also the third part of his pasture land in the common of Cadibroc to hold freely &c., except royal service, in pure and perpetual alms, doing suit and service twice a-year to the Hundred Court.

2. Upon Inspeximus Hugh Poyntz confirmed this grant of his father and lord, Nicholas Poyntz.

Some dispute would seem to have arisen concerning a moiety of the tithe of corn of Katebroc, which had therefor been of custom received by the

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Pip. Glouc., 3rd John.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> "Baronage," vol. i, p. 401.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Dorset and Somerset.

<sup>4</sup> Rot. Fin., 3rd Henry III, m. 9.

Rector of the Chapel of Tokinton, which led to a composition and agreement between the Abbot and Canons of St. Augustine and the Church of Almondesbury on the one part and the Chapel of Tokinton and Nicholas Poyntz the Patron thereof and Richard Rector of the same of the other part, whereby it was agreed between the parties that the rector of the Chapel of Tokinton should possess the said tithe for ever paying therefor yearly to the Church of Almondesbury 6s., and that the Church of Almondesbury should receive the other moiety together with the small tithes offerings of the said place.

3. Afterwards Johanna de Traily, formerly wife of the said Nicholas Pontz, released and quit-claimed to the said Abbot and Canons all her right and claims upon lands called Kingsmershe at Almondesbury, and

4. Baldwin de Bethune and Johanna de Traily his wife quit-claimed the same and other lands to the same Abbot and Canons.<sup>1</sup>

These instruments are undated, but they are probably towards the end of the life of Nicholas Poinz and soon after the remarriage of his relict, perhaps about the end of the first quarter of the thirteenth century. The date is to some extent marked by the career of Baldwin de Bethune. This Baldwin, who was advocate of Bethune, flourished from 1189 to 1246. He was married to his first wife a sister of Anselm de Cioches or Chokes, and on the death of her nephew, Robert de Chokes *s.p.*, which was before 1202, Baldwin's son Robert inherited his Barony of fifteen knights' fees, but he does not appear to have been summoned to Parliament.

We find Baldwin de Bethune mentioned in the Pipe Roll of 1st Richard I. for the county of Sussex. In 1199 he had a grant of the manors of Fokesham, Stoke, Brabarn with the Hundred, Sutton, and Ramesing, all in the county of Kent,<sup>2</sup> and in 1236-7 he was granted the manors of Gayton and Grimsby in the county of Northampton.<sup>3</sup> We do not know the date of his death but it could scarcely be long after this time for he must now have been an aged man. It was doubtless his son Robert or his grandson William, both of whom succeeded him as advocate of Bethune, who is shewn in Testa de Nevil to hold eight knights' fees of the fee of Chokes in the county of Northampton (p. 30), and eleven fees of the king in capite in the same county, in which county Robert son of Baldwin died seized of divers lands 1246-7.<sup>4</sup>

Nicholas Poinz was succeeded by his son Hugh, who must have been, if Banks can be trusted, of man's estate before the Barons' Wars, and other

<sup>1</sup> Cartulary St. Aug., fols. 156-158.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 21st Henry III.

<sup>2</sup> Charter Roll, 1st John, part i, m. 102.

<sup>4</sup> Inq. p.m., 31st Henry III, No. 44.



circumstances tend to confirm this view. In a pedigree among the Miscellaneous Pedigrees in the Heralds' College, though not upon official Record, he is described as Lord of the Manor of Tockington, in the county of Gloucester. He married Juliana daughter of Hugh and niece and coheir of Robert Bardolf of the county of Kent. On 12th May, 1218, Hamo, son of Richard, obtained a writ to recover from Hugh Poinz two carucates of land, &c., in Sutton, in the county of Dorset, into which it was alleged the said Hugh had no ingress except by intrusion after the death of Grace who was wife of Robert, son of the said Hamo, which lands she had in dower of the inheritance of the said Hamo.<sup>1</sup> Hugh must have died very soon after this date leaving a son and heir Hugh.

We now begin to tread on firmer ground, and as we proceed we shall find much to connect what we shall presently state with what we have already written.

William Malet, Baron of Cory Malet in co. Somerset, died before 1220 leaving two daughters his coheirs (his son William having predeceased him *s.p.*) Hawisia who was wife of Hugh Poinz son of Hugh last above mentioned, and Mabel who became the wife of Hugh de Vivonia, but died *s.p.m.* This Hugh did not long survive his father, for his writ diem clausit extremum was issued on 4th April, 1219, and on 11th February, 1220-1, Robert de Muscegros made fine with the King in 300 marks to marry Helewisia, who was the wife of Hugh Poinz, to be paid by quarterly payments of 50 marks commencing on the Easter following, and the Sheriff of Somerset was commanded to accept security for the payment of the fine at the periods specified, and to give full seizin of all the lands, fees, and tenements of the aforesaid Helewisia in his bailiwick, and to notify the same to the Sheriffs of Kent and Suffolk.

The issue of the marriage of Hugh Poinz and Hawisia Malet was a son named Nicholas, who was then a child of tender years. On 1st July, 1225, the King received the homage of Jordan Foliot, Isolda Gray and Ralph Paynel, for their portions of the lands, &c., of their uncle, Robert Bardolph, and also of Robert Lupo on behalf of Matilda Bardolf his mother, and the Sheriff of Kent was commanded to take security from them respectively for their relief and give them seizin of the lands of their several portions, but the portion of the son and heir of Hugh Poinz, who was likewise one of the heirs of Robert Bardolf, and within age and in the custody of the King, was retained. His wardship was granted to his uncle Ralph Poyntz.<sup>2</sup> He was still under age in

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Fin., 2nd Henry III., m. 6.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Claus., 18th Henry III., m. 16.



1232, for on 11th November in that year Ralph, son of Nicholas, therefore Hugh's great uncle, claimed the 100s. yearly which Robert de Muscegros used to render to Gilbert Earl of Gloucester by reason of the dower of his wife in Sutton, which was of the inheritance of the son and heir of Hugh Poinz then in the custody of the said Ralph, to hold to the said Ralph till the legal age of the said heir, and Robert Muscegros was commanded to answer to him for the said 100s.<sup>2</sup>

On the vigil of SS. Peter and Paul (Nov. 17) 1251, the Prior and Monks of Great Malvern exchanged with Sir Nicholas Poinz a certain virgate of land which they had of the gift of his father Hugh Poinz for a certain virgate of land in the marsh juxta Tokington, which was given to the Church of St. James at Bristol, and which by charters between them was quit-claimed for ever.<sup>3</sup> The Manor of Tokington, which at the time of the Domesday Survey consisted of eight hides, and was held by William fitz Osborne in demesne, if not at that time held by one of the Pointz family as a sub-infeudation, came early into their possession and was held together with Swell. It is stated in an Inquisition ad quod damnum taken at Swell in 28th Edward I, that Richard Earl of Cornwall, who died in 1271, had a pasture of 140 acres in exchange from the Abbot of Tewkesbury and from Nicholas Pointz deceased which the said Earl imparked in 1254 to give to the Abbot of Hayles, and which his son Edmund desired to confirm. And in another Inquisition, taken five years later, it is said that Richard, formerly Earl of Cornwall, purchased the ville of Netherswell, in the Hundred Rolls called the Manor, and gave it afterwards to the Abbot of Hayles. The Nicholas Poinz mentioned in these records was doubtless the Nicholas now immediately under notice, and was as unquestionably the descendant of Simon fitz Pons upon whom we have seen the fee of Swell devolved after the death of his brothers Drogo and Walter *s.p.*, probably through Pons fitz Simon, who in 1166 held the fees of his father and uncle of the Honour of Gloucester, of which Honour the fees in question formed a portion. And we shall see as we proceed that the inheritance of these fees devolved upon the Pointz's of Cory Malet and Iron Acton, establishing the descent of that branch of the family from Simon fitz Pons rather than from his brother Osbert, as has hitherto been supposed. Nicholas Poinz married Elizabeth daughter and heir of Timothy Dyall and died in 1272. In the Inquisition taken after his death for the county of

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Fin., 9th Henry III, m. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Claus., 17th Henry III, m. 16.

<sup>3</sup> "Annales Monastici Morgan," Tewkesbury, p. 144. Master of the Rolls's Series.

Gloucester, on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Martin in that year, the jurors found that he died seized of the Manor of Tokington<sup>1</sup> which he held of the Earl of Gloucester by military service, and that Hugh Poinz was son of the said Nicholas and his nearest heir, and was aged 21 years and more.<sup>2</sup> Upon a similar Inquisition taken the same day for the county of Somerset it was found that the said Nicholas held the Manor of Cory Malet of the King in capite by military service, and that Hugh Pointz was his son and nearest heir, and of the age above stated. In a similar Inquisition taken on the feast of St. Bartholomew in the same year it is found that the said Nicholas held the manor of Sutton in capite of Gilbert de Clare Earl of Gloucester, by the service of one knight's fee, and that his heir was as before stated. The Inquisition for the county of Cambridge was taken as early as the Vigil of St. Mark (April 24) in the same year and shews that the said Nicholas died early in that year. The jurors say that he held a moiety of the Manor of Dollingham which belonged to a certain William Malet, and that the said Manor the said William held in exchange for the Manor of St. Wandregesil in pure and perpetual alms and not of the king, and that the said Nicholas gave the said manor to Hugh his son and heir who held the same during the life of his father, and the said Hugh was aged 21 years and more. The Inquisition for the county of Kent was taken on Thursday next after the feast of St. Leonard and the jurors found that the said Nicholas held the Manor of Ho in capite of the King by the service of half a knight's fee, and that Hugh Pointz is his son and nearest heir, and was aged 21 years and more at the feast of St. Bartholomew last past.<sup>3</sup> The King, by his writ dated 16th August 2nd Edward I., signified to the Escheators of the various counties, and especially to the Escheator of Somerset, that Hugh Pointz son and heir of Nicholas had made homage for the Barony which he held of the King in capite and commanded that upon reasonable relief being paid seizin should be given.

It will be observed that in the Inquisition taken for the county of Gloucester on the death of Nicholas Poyntz, the Manor of Swell is not mentioned as parcel of his possessions. This is explained by the following record: Among the many writs of quo warranto issued by King Edward I. was a precept to the Sheriff of Gloucester commanding him to call upon the Abbot

<sup>1</sup> It will be observed that the Manor of Swell is not named in this Inquisition as held by Nicholas Poyntz on the day of his death, but it will be seen on reference to the Inquisition taken on the death of Richard de Clare, that the fees of Tokinton and Swell were then held of him.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. p.m., 1st Edward I, No. 17.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. p.m., 1st Edw. I, No. 17.

of Hayles to answer to the King of a plea why whereas King Henry III. within the time a writ of novel disseizin runs was seized of *una jurata annua*<sup>1</sup> of view of frank pledge of the villa of Netherswell, and likewise of seven pence of ward penny more annual prestation the Abbot now takes it. The Abbot answered that King Henry II. was not seized of the said prestation after the time aforesaid, and petitions an enquiry. And William de Inge who followed says that King Henry III. in the 31st year of his reign gave the Manors of Slaughter and the Hundred of Malmesbury to which the said arrentation belongs to the monks of Fischamp, in exchange for the Manors of Wynchelse and La Rye, and before that gift the said King ever had in seizin the said arrentation and likewise the said monks were seized for the space of three years in the name of the King as hundredor, and this they pray may be enquired into, and the jury together with Richard de Tundicote and John de Cameron testify the same upon their oaths; by which verdict it manifestly appears that the said subtraction was made within the time aforesaid, viz., in the 38th Henry III., whereof the arrears of the said jurata 38 marks, and the arrears of the seven pence 22s. 2d. And the jurors being asked if the Abbot and his predecessors during the whole time aforesaid received the said arrentation say, that Richard King of Almain purchased certain land of the ancestor of Hugh de Poynz in the aforesaid ville after the time of the date of a writ of novel disseizin, and then first took the arrentation which King Henry III. and the Monks of Fischamp were wont to receive, which said land King Richard held in his hand for seven years and then gave it to the Monks of Hayles and the said monks received the arrentation. And thereupon comes William Bladington, Bailiff of Fischamp and claims the said arrentation as the right of the Monastery of Fischamp, and prays the king's grace. A day is given to hear judgment before the Barons of the Exchequer. What the result was we know not. It is not pertinent to our enquiry, for it appears that certain lands which probably included the Manor of Swell were sold to Richard King of Almain. It would however appear, as we shall see further on, that the military services were reserved.<sup>2</sup> In the Inquisition taken after the death of Richard de Clare Earl of Gloscester and Hertford, who died in 1261, the fees of Thokington and Swell were found to be held of him by Nicholas Pointz,<sup>3</sup> and on the death of his son and successor Gilbert de Clare in 1295 it was found that Hugh le Poinz held of the said Earl six knights'

<sup>1</sup> "*Jurata*" is a payment or annual fine of the View of Frank Pledge. It is the common fine of the Court.

<sup>2</sup> Placita quo Warranto, 15th Edw. I, Rot. 9.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. p.m., 47th Hen. III, No. 34.



fees in Tokenton and Swell, the value per annum of which is stated to be £170.<sup>1</sup> Gilbert de Clare, son and heir of the last Earl Gilbert, died in 1313 s.p., leaving his three sisters his coheirs, of whom Margaret first became the wife of Piers de Gaveston and after his death of Hugh de Audeley. The latter was created Earl of Gloucester on 23rd April, 1337, and, surviving his wife, held her lands and manors according to the law of England. He died in 1347 seized of an estate as aforesaid *inter alia* of six knights' fees of the Honour of Gloucester in Tokynton and Swelle held of him by Hugh de Poyns and stated to be of the value aforesaid.<sup>2</sup> Margaret, wife of Ralph Lord Stafford, was found to be the next heir of the said Hugh and Margaret. Ralph Baron Stafford was created Earl of Stafford on 3rd March, 1371, and died 14th October, 1386 seized *inter alia* of the six knights' fees in Tokinton and Swell<sup>3</sup> which Nicholas Poyntz formerly held; it is also stated that Robert le Poyntz held of him one knight's fee in Irenacton. A similar return was made in the Inquisition taken at Thornbury on 14th February, 1398-9, after the death of Thomas Earl of Stafford, the fee in Irenacton being then held of him by Robert Poynz, which fee is stated to be of the value of £30, that is, of course, to the Earl. It will be observed that in these later Inquisitions it is not stated who *then* held the fees, but reference is made to the time when they were held by Nicholas Poyntz. One might be inclined to think that these fees had ceased to be held by the Poyntz family, but in the Inquisition taken on 11th September, 1460, after the death of Humphry Duke of Buckingham, among the fees he held in the Honour of Gloucester are found six knights' fees in Tokynton and Swell which the heirs of Nicholas de Poyntz hold, and that the fee in Irenacton was then held by the heir of Robert de Poyntz.<sup>4</sup> We have traced the devolution of the fees in Tokynton and Swell to prove that the Poyntzes of Iron Acton were the direct descendants of Simon fitz Pons who possessed the Manor of Swell in the early part of the twelfth century, and granted all the tithe of the demesne to the Abbey of Tewkesbury.

Nicholas Pointz married Elizabeth daughter of William de la Zouche, and his son Hugh becomes a prominent figure in the history of the family. He did homage for the Barony he held of the king 2nd Edw. I.

Llewelyn Prince of Wales had been an active ally of Simon de Montford, and had been included in the peace on the death of that personage, but on

<sup>1</sup> Inq. p.m., 8th Edw. II, No. 68, m. 56.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. p.m., 21st Edw. III, No. 59 (First numbers.)

<sup>3</sup> Inq. p.m., 10th Rich. II, No. 38, and 16 Rich. II, No. 27 (Pars 1.)

<sup>4</sup> Inq. p.m., 38th and 39th Hen. VI, No. 59.

his refusal to attend the summons to the first Parliament of King Edward I., the king determined to punish him by invading his country. For this purpose he summoned all his power to a muster at Worcester in the octave of St. John Baptist, 1277.<sup>1</sup> In pursuance of which Hugh Pointz acknowledged the service of one knight's fee in Cory Malet and performed it himself, and again at Carmarthen on Thursday next before the feast of St. Margaret following.<sup>2</sup> Llewelyn was now reduced to subjection and peace was made, and Llewelyn returned with the king to Westminster to keep Christmas. In 1282 the Welsh again broke out into rebellion and murdered the Lord Clifford, the king's justiciar in Wales. An army was again formed, and Hugh Poinz was summoned to perform military service in person and muster at Rhuddlan on the morrow of St. Peter ad vincula (2nd Aug.) in that year.<sup>3</sup> He was, however, discharged from attendance at Rhuddlan, and ordered to continue in West Wales under the command of the captains of the forces in those parts.<sup>4</sup> He was again summoned to appear in person at a muster in Carmarthen on the feast of St. Nicholas, 6th Dec., 1282. In the following week a great battle was fought on 11th Dec., in which the English were entirely victorious. Prince Llewelyn was slain by a common soldier and 2,000 men of his army also fell. His brother Prince David escaped. In the following year, however, Edward determined upon pursuing the advantage he had gained. Hugh Poyntz was again summoned to Carmarthen to perform military service in person at the muster the quindecim of Easter.<sup>5</sup> Prince David now fell into the king's hands and was sent to Shrewsbury, and there executed with such shocking barbarity as had never before been known in England. In 1283 Hugh Poyntz was summoned to a Parliament at Shrewsbury on the morrow of St. Michael.<sup>6</sup> In 1287 he was summoned to appear with horses and arms at a military council to be held at Gloucester before Edmond Earl of Cornwall in the three weeks of St. John Baptist's day.<sup>7</sup>

In this year he was summoned to reply to the king on a plea by what warrant he claimed to have view of frank pledge and market and fair in his Manor of Tockington without the king's license. Hugh appeared and said, that as regarded the view of frank pledge and weyfs he and all his ancestors, from time immemorial, had held the said manor with the aforesaid liberties; and that as regarded the market and fair he said that the now king granted to the

<sup>1</sup> Parl. Writs, 5th Edw. I., vol. i, p. 194.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, pp. 204, 212.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 10th Edw. I., vol. i, p. 225.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 227.

<sup>5</sup> Parl. Writs, 11th Edw. I., vol. i, 247.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 16, No. 20.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 15th Edw. I., vol. i, 250.

same Hugh, by Charter dated 10th Feb. in the ninth year of his reign, a market every week on Wednesday at his Manor of Tokington and one fair there every year for three days: viz., on the vigil, day and morrow of St. Nicholas the Bishop; and one other fair for three days: viz., on the vigil, day and morrow of the Translation of the said St. Nicholas. A day was given to hear the case, but it was postponed from term to term and eventually would appear to have been dropped.<sup>1</sup>

In the latter part of the year 1294 another army was collected to march into Wales with the view of extirpating the Welsh people, and Hugh Poyntz was one of those who were summoned to a military council at Worcester on Sunday the morrow of St. Edmund the King (21st Nov.)<sup>2</sup> He was also summoned to two Parliaments held at Westminster in 1295,<sup>3</sup> and to one held at Bury St. Edmund's<sup>4</sup> on the morrow of All Souls in the following year. In 1297 the king determined upon an expedition into France, and all persons holding lands or rents of £20 yearly value were summoned under a general writ to perform military service in person with horses and arms, &c., beyond the seas.<sup>5</sup> Hugh Poyntz was returned from the counties of Dorset and Somerset. The king crossed over to France with a great army on the 22nd August,<sup>6</sup> but it does not appear that Hugh Poyntz accompanied him, for he was summoned to appear with horses and arms at a military council at Rochester before Edward, the king's son and Lieutenant of England, on Sunday the Nativity of the Virgin (8th Sept.)<sup>7</sup> In 1300 he was summoned to a Parliament in London.

It would be tedious to enumerate all the occasions on which he was summoned to musters with horses and arms for the Scots wars in 1296, but it is presumed that he was at the great battle of Dunbar on 27th April, when the Scots were defeated with great slaughter, which led to the formal surrender by Baliol of the regal dignity. He was summoned to the muster at Carlisle on Witsun Eve 1297, when there was another great expedition into Scotland. It is, however, unnecessary to quote the various summonses both special and general which he received to take his part with horses and arms in the wars with Scotland, but there is one of too much interest and importance to be omitted. Edward I again invaded Scotland in 1300, and Hugh Poyntz received a special summons to be present at the muster at

<sup>1</sup> Placito de quo Warranto, 15th Edw. I, Rot. 9.

<sup>2</sup> Parl. Writs, 23rd Edw. I, vol. i, p. 265.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, pp. 29, 31, 33.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 24th Edw. I, p. 48.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 24th Edw. I, i, 292.

<sup>6</sup> Berkeley MSS., vol. i, p. 173.

<sup>7</sup> Parl. Writs, 25th Edw. I, vol. i, 296.



Carlisle on the feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist. The English army marched from Carlisle a few days afterwards, and about the 10th or 11th July laid seige to the famous Castle of Caerlaverock. At this seige Hugh Poyntz displayed his banner, which was challenged by Brian Fitz Alan who unfurled one bearing precisely the same arms. The contemporary author of the Roll of Caerlaverock says:—

E la baniere Hue Pointz  
 Estoit barrée de viiij poinz  
 De Or e de Goules ovelment

And the banner of Hugh Pointz  
 Was barry of nine pieces  
 Of Or and Gules equally.

And again—

Le beau Brian le fitz Aleyu  
 De courtoisie e de honnour pleyu  
 I vi o baniere barrée  
 De or e de goules bien parée  
 Dont de chalenge estoit li poinz,  
 Par entre li e Hue Pointz  
 Ki portoit tel ne plus ne meins,  
 Dont merueille avoit meinte e meins.

The handsome Brian Fitz Alan  
 Full of courtesy and honour  
 I saw there with his well adorned banner  
 Barry of gold and red  
 Which was the subject of dispute  
 Between him and Hugh Pointz,  
 Who bore the same, neither more nor less,  
 At which many marvelled, man and woman.

We have followed Wright's translation (pp. 9 and 15).

It is significant that the chronicler says this had frequently been the subject of dispute between them, as it shews that it was most unusual for two persons to bear the same coat armour. Hugh Pointz, as we have seen, signed the celebrated letter to the Pope, but the seal with which he authenticated his signature was that of his son, for his arms are differenced with a lable of five points and bears the legend s. NICHOLAI POYNTZ. Brian Fitz Alan also signed this letter, but instead of affixing his seal of arms he used a device of a very comical character, consisting of a motley assemblage of animals, two birds, a rabbit, a stag, and a boar, all of which are looking to the dexter, excepting the latter which is regarding the chief. The legend is also curious: TOT. CAPITA. TOT. SENTENCIE. Brian Fitz Alan would seem to have been an eccentric character, but the incident shews that by the laws of arms no two persons were allowed to bear the same ensigns, and that any infraction of this law was not allowed to pass unnoticed. We have other illustrations in the Scrope, Grosvenor and Carminow suit in the Court of Chancery in 1389, and Grey and Hastings in 1410.

We have mentioned ante that Hugh Pointz was summoned to parliament twice in 1295, again in 1296. In 1300 he was summoned to a Parliament in London.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Parl. Writs 28th Edw. I, vol. 82.



It has been doubted by some persons whether the assemblies to which the summonses just mentioned have reference were true parliaments, but they have been admitted as such at the Bar of the House of Lords. Be that as it may, there is no evidence that Hugh Poinz, though summoned, sat at either of them. He was, however, by writ dated 26th September 1300, by the style and title of Hugo Pointz Dominus de Corimalet, summoned to the important parliament to be held at Lincoln in the octave of St. Hilary next ensuing, to consider the letter of Pope Boniface in which he claimed the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Scotland as belonging to the Church of Rome. He sat in this parliament, and was one of the 103 Barons who sealed the spirited letter to the Pope from the Barons of England. From this time he continued to be summoned to subsequent parliaments until his death in 1307. By his Inquisition post mortem, taken at Tokington 25th January 1307-8, it was found that on the day on which he died he held in his demesne as of fee the manor of Tokington of the Earl of Gloucester by the service of one knight, and the jurors say there is there a certain capital messuage with garden and one dovecote, which are of the value per annum 6s. 8d., and that there are there in demesne 160 acres of arable land which are of the value per annum 40s., price per acre 3d.; they say there are 24 acres of meadow value per annum 36s., price per acre 1s. 6d.; that there are 6 acres of pasture of the value per annum 6s., price per acre 12d.; and that there are certain woods which are of no value, and a certain park of 10 acres whose value beyond the sustentation of game is 5s., and a mill whose value is 20s. Sum. 113s. 8d. They jurors say further that there are certain rents paid by free and other tenants, the whole value of which together is £26 1s. 8d.; and they say that Nicholas Pointz son of the aforesaid Hugh is his nearest heir and is aged 28 years and more.<sup>1</sup>

The precise date of the death of Hugh Pointz is not stated, but it doubtless occurred before the 24th December, 1307, for on that date, Nicholas, his son and successor by Margaret daughter of Sir William Paveley, was commissioned as one of the Conservators of the Peace in the County of Dorset,<sup>2</sup> and on the 17th March following he was granted special powers for preventing tortuous prises, &c.<sup>3</sup> On the 21st June in the same year he was summoned to perform military service in person against the Scots, to muster at Carlisle in the octave of the Assumption.<sup>4</sup> On the 4th March, 2nd Edw. II (1308-9) he was summoned to attend a parliament at Westminster<sup>5</sup> in one

<sup>1</sup> Inq. p.m., 1st Edw. II, No. 46.

<sup>2</sup> Parl. Writ, 1st Edw. II, vol. ii, p. 8.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 12.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 2nd Edw. II, vol. i, p. 373.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., vol. i, p. 26.

month of Easter, and on 9th June in the following year<sup>1</sup> he was summoned to attend a parliament at Stamford on Monday next after the feast of St. James the Apostle (27th July),<sup>2</sup> having been on the 20th June preceding requested to prepare to join an expedition against the Scots in such a manner as should be ordained at that parliament. On 30th July, 1309, he was summoned to a muster at Newcastle-upon-Tyne to perform military service in person against the same nation,<sup>3</sup> and on 26th October in the same year he was summoned to a parliament at York on Monday next after the Purification following. Whether his health was failing him at this time we know not, but on the 1st of April he was enjoined to proceed with greater activity in executing the commission for the conservancy,<sup>4</sup> and on 2nd August he was earnestly requested to attend the muster at Berwick-upon-Tweed,<sup>5</sup> and on 17th September following he proffers the service of the knight's fee for his manor of Cory Malet performed by two "Servientes" with two barbed horses.<sup>6</sup> He was one of the Supervisors of Array in the counties of Dorset and Somerset and also leader of the levies, and by writ tested at Berwick on 20th May, 1311, the sheriff was commanded to pay his expenses,<sup>7</sup> and on the 28th of the same month he was requested to proceed against the Scots with as many followers as he could raise.<sup>8</sup> On the 16th June in the same year he was summoned to a parliament to be held at London on Monday next before the feast of St. Lawrence, 8th August, 1311.<sup>9</sup> He was twice married: first to Elizabeth, daughter of Edward de la Zouch of Harringworth, and secondly to Matilda, the heir of Sir John Acton of Iron Acton, co. Gloucester. In the Inquisition taken at Schyreburn for the county of Dorset on 16th August, 1311, after his death the jurors found that the said Nicholas together with Elizabeth, sometime his wife, were conjointly enfeoffed of the manor of Stoke St. Edward in the county of Gloucester with appurtenance of the gift and feoffment of Miles de Monte Alto to hold the same to the said Nicholas and Elizabeth in free marriage of the Earl of Gloucester as a member of the manor of Sutton which the said Earl holds by the service of two knights, and the jurors say that Hugh Pointz is son and nearest heir of the said Nicholas, and was aged 18 years on the feast of All Saints last past.<sup>10</sup>

In the Inquisition taken at Hoo for the county of Kent, the jurors find that the said Nicholas died seized of the manor of Hoo, which he held of the King

<sup>1</sup> Parl. Writs, 2nd Edw. II, vol. i, p. 28.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 380.

<sup>3</sup> Parl. Writs, 3rd Edw. II, vol. i, p. 382.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., vol. ii, p. 28.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., vol. i, p. 399.

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 403.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 4th Edw. II, vol. i, pp. 409, 410.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 412.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., vol. ii, p. 38.

<sup>10</sup> Inq., p.m., 5th Edw. II, No. 62.

in capite, and they say further that he held on the day on which he died the manor of Lollynggeston conjointly with Matilda his wife, which said Manor was acquired of Reymond Heryng to have and to hold to him and the heirs of his body by fine in the Court of the King, and they say the said manor is held of the Archbishop of Canterbury by the service of one knight's fee.

He was also found to have died seized of the manor of Tokinton in the county of Gloucester by the same tenure as before stated, and Hugh Pointz was found to be his son and nearest heir, and to be aged 18 years and more.<sup>1</sup>

To these Inquisitions is annexed the extent of the knights' fees which were held by the said Nicholas Poyntz of the King in capite for the counties of Dorset and Somerset, and which by reason of his death fell into the King's hands. Of the fees held by him in Gloucester and other counties no return is found.

INQ. P.M. 5 EDWARD 2, No. 62.

Dor's

Extenta feodorum Militum que fuerunt Nicholai Poyntz defuneti qui de Rege in capite et que occasione mortis ejusdem capta sunt in manu Regis videlicet.

	Tertia pars unius Mil' quam Ri'eus de Byngham tenet in Wellecombe [Melecombe] Byngham in Com' Dors' et que extend' per annum ad ...	es.
Dos.	Tres partes feodi unius Mil' quas Johannes le Waleys de Poditon' tenet in Podyton' et Estehykerel in eodem Com' et qua extend' per annum ad ...	viiij <i>l</i> .
Dos.	Feod' unius Mil' quod Reymundus Harang' Will's de Cruket et Galfridus de Warmewell' tenent in Langeton Brodeweye et Radeslo in eodem Com' et quod extend' per annum ad ...	viiij <i>l</i> .
	Octava pars feodi unius Mil' quam Will's de Stok tenet in Wytreburn' Regis in eodem Com' et que extend' per annu' ad ...	xls.
	Duodecima pars feodi unius Mil' quam Robertus le Newman tenet in Worgrode in eodem Com' et que extend' per annum ad ...	xxs.
Dos.	Sextadecima pars feodi unius Mil' quam Johannes de Monte alto tenet in Crawested in eodem Com' et que extend' per annum ad ...	vjs viij <i>l</i> .
	Tres partes feodi unius Mil' quas Abbas de Bynedon tenet in puram et perpetuam elemosinam in Bonyngton' in eodem Com' et que extend' p annum ad ...	x <i>l</i> .
Dos.	Medietas feodi unius Mil' quam Jacobus de Norton' et Will's Saffray tenent in Fisssherton' et Wabyngton' in eodem Com' et que extend' per annum ad ...	xij <i>l</i> .
Dos.	Duodecima pars feodi unius Mil' quam Robertus de Farendon' tenet in Radeweye in eodem Com' et que ext' per annum ad ...	es.
	Summa valoris l <i>j</i> <i>l</i> vjs viij <i>l</i> .	

<sup>1</sup> Inq. p.m. 5th Edw. II, No. 62.



## Som's

	Feod' unius Mil' quod Elyas Cotel tenet in Corscombe in Com' Somers' et quod extend' per annum ad	... xli.
	Duo feoda Mil' que Will's Malerbe tenet in Shepham Standrewykes et Cheddern' in eodem Com' et que extend' p annum ad	... xvli.
	fflod' unius Mil' quod Will's de Reygny tenet in Ludeford in eodem Com' et quod ext' p annum ad	... es.
	Viesima pars feodi unius Mil' quam Will's de Wygeburgh' tenet in Ychestok in eodem Com' et que etc. ad	... xxs.
	Feod' unius Mil' quod Matheus de Esse tenet in Worth Cnolle et Hyllegh' in eod' Com' et que etc. ad	... es
	Duo feoda Mil' que heredes Ivonis de Rocheford tenent in Stawelle in eodem Com' et que extend' per annum ad	... xli.
	Quinta pars feodi unius Mil' quam heres Johannis de Meryet tenet in Lopene in eodem Com' et que etc. ad	... xls
	Quinta pars feodi unius Mil' quam Will's Bossard' tenet in Langesutton' in eodem Com' et que etc. ad	... xls
Dos.	Tria feoda Mil' que Will's Trivet tenet in Chylton' et Cockes in eodem Com' et que etc. ad	... xvli
	Viesima pars feodi unius Mil' quam Walterus le Kam tenet in Cory Malet in eodem Com' et que etc. ad	... xxs
	Summa valoris.....exviij <i>li</i> vjs viij <i>d</i> .	
	et e' terea pars .....xxxix <i>li</i> ijs ij <i>d</i> o'.	
	Summa totalis.....xiiij feoda et sexta pars et quadragesima octava pars feodi.	
	Et est terea pars.....iiij feoda et due partes et sextadeesima pars feodi.	

The custody of the lands of Nicholas Poyntz, together with the knights' fees, upon the payment of seven hundred marks into the Treasury, was granted to William le Latimer to hold until the legal age of the heir of the said Nicholas.<sup>1</sup> This grant from some cause fell through, and soon afterwards the King, upon the payment of a like sum into the Exchequer by William Rydal, sold to the same William the custody of the lands and tenements which belonged to Nicholas Poyntz, deceased, to hold with the knights' fees, advowsons of churches, and all other things to the same custody belonging, until the legal age of the heir of the said Nicholas.<sup>2</sup>

In 1314 Matilda relict of Nicholas Poyntz had an assignment of dower in her late husband's lands.

In 1316 Hugh Poyntz, being then of full age, was certified, pursuant to writ tested at Clipston on 5th March, as lord or joint lord of the hundred of Hoo in Kent and of the Advowsons of the churches of SS. Margaret and Werburgh

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Original., 5th Edw. II, rot. 11.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., rot. 20.

at Hoo, of the manor of Tockington in Gloucestershire, of Curry Malet in Somerset, and of Rockley in Wilts. His military service now commenced.<sup>1</sup> On 20th May, 1317, he was summoned to perform military service in person against the Scots, muster at Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the fifteen days of the Nativity of St. John Baptist.<sup>2</sup> This muster was afterwards prorogued to the 11th August<sup>3</sup> and again to 15th September.<sup>4</sup> On the 20th November of the same year he was summoned to a parliament at Lincoln in St. Hilary term.<sup>5</sup> It was afterwards prorogued to the first Monday in Lent (12 March).<sup>6</sup> This meeting having been again prorogued, he was re-summoned to a parliament at Lincoln on the morrow of Holy Trinity (19th June), 1318.<sup>7</sup> This meeting being again prorogued, and on the 18th June, being addressed as one of the "majores barons," he was informed that the parliament summoned and prorogued as above is revoked in consequence of the invasion of the Scots.<sup>8</sup>

We shall abstain from following all the lamentable vacillation of the weak and indolent monarch through which the country became a prey to division and destruction, famine and pestilence at home, and degradation and contempt abroad, whilst Scotland became united and powerful under the courageous and judicious guidance of Robert Bruce. These are matters of general history and reflect great discredit both upon the King and his barons. The latter, instead of being united in the defence of the kingdom, formed combinations among themselves to subvert the influence of the King's unworthy favourites and to augment their own power in the state. The malcontents were headed by the Earl of Lancaster, the King's uncle, a good man greatly respected and beloved. What part the young Baron of Cory Malet took in these contentions we know not, but we find that by writ tested at Westminster on 12th November, 1321, he was ordered to abstain from attending a meeting of the "Good Peers" illegally convened by the Earl of Lancaster to be held at Doncaster on Sunday after the quinzaine of St. Martin (29th November).<sup>10</sup> It would seem that he so far maintained his loyalty to the King, for on the 6th February following, by writ tested at Gloucester, he was enjoined to raise as many men-at-arms and foot soldiers as he could, and to hold himself in readiness to march with them to the King when thereunto summoned;<sup>11</sup> and on the 14th of the same month he was summoned to appear at the muster at Coventry on the first Sunday in

<sup>1</sup> Parl. Writs.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 10th Edw. II, vol. i, p. 490.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 494.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 173.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 173.

<sup>7</sup> Parl. Writs, 11th Edw. II, vol. i, p. 179.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 181.

<sup>10</sup> Parl. Writs., vol. ii, p. 169.

<sup>11</sup> Parl. Writs., 15th Edw. II, vol. i, p. 545.

in Lent (28th February) for the purpose of marching against the rebels or adherents of the Earl of Lancaster.<sup>1</sup> Upon this followed the battle of Borough Bridge when the Earl of Lancaster with many others were made prisoners, and the Earl, after being subjected to great indignities, was beheaded at Pontefract.

The King, encouraged by this triumph over his insurgent barons, determined upon another expedition into Scotland, and in preparation thereto summoned a parliament to be held at York within the three weeks of Easter (2nd May), to which Hugh Poyntz was summoned.<sup>2</sup> On 11th May he was summoned to perform military service in person against the Scots, muster at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on the eve of St. James.<sup>3</sup> The King's plan for the winter campaign was simply that he and his army should be stationed at that place to watch the movements of the Scots, so that in the following summer more effectual proceedings might be taken against them so as to put an end to the war. By writ tested at Pontefract, 23rd February, and at Knaresborough on the 9th March, Hugh Poyntz was again summoned to perform military service in person and also commanded to raise as many men-at-arms as he could over and above his contingent due by tenure, muster at York in one month of Easter, and at Newcastle in the octave of St. John Baptist.<sup>4</sup> Delays again however took place, but at length the King marched from York with a great host but badly supplied with provisions and transport. On the 18th April Hugh Poyntz is commanded to provide pack saddles for the use of the army in case it should be expedient to advance without the wagon train<sup>5</sup>; notwithstanding however all these delays and preparations, the unfortunate King was doomed again to return with dishonour.

As an evidence of his loyalty to the King in the recent quarrel with the barons, Hugh Poyntz was accepted as one of the manucaptors for the good behaviour of Thomas de Gurnay on his discharge from imprisonment as an adherent of the Earl of Lancaster and also for the payment of the fine imposed upon him.<sup>6</sup> On 2nd December in the same year (1324) he was summoned to a great council of the "Magnates," to be held at Winchester on the 3rd March;<sup>7</sup> and on the place of meeting being altered to Westminster on 20th February, he was summoned thither for the octave of Easter.<sup>8</sup>

In 1325 misunderstandings arose between Edward and the King of France,

<sup>1</sup> Parl. Writs, 15th Edw. II. vol i, p. 549.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., vol. i, p. 246.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., vol. i, p. 569.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., vol. i, pp. 621, 622.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 627.

<sup>6</sup> Parl. Writs, 17th Edw. II. Recognizance dated 1st July. Vol. ii, p. 255.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., vol. i, p. 326.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 327.



in consequence of the former having neglected to do homage for his earldoms of Aquitaine and Ponthieu, and Philip seized upon all the King of England's possessions in France. The Earl of Kent, the King's brother, was sent over to endeavour to adjust the differences, but failing, the King determined upon an expedition into France, to secure his dominions in that country, under the command of the Earl of Warren, and Hugh Poyntz was summoned from Somerset and Dorset to join the muster at Portsmouth on Monday next after Mid-Lent, to pass into Guienne; but the differences were afterwards adjusted through the intervention of the Queen and Prince Edward.<sup>1</sup> In the subsequent rebellion of the Queen and the Prince, Hugh Poyntz would seem to have maintained his loyalty, and on the 24th June, 1326, he was appointed one of the Chief Inspectors of Array in the counties of Somerset and Dorset, with special powers<sup>2</sup>; and on the 15th August following he is addressed as the "Chief Supervisor of the Array," and commanded to enforce the march of the detachments;<sup>3</sup> and on 3rd December, 1326, he was summoned by the Queen in the King's name to attend a parliament at Westminster on the morrow of the Epiphany (7th January)<sup>4</sup> at which, on the 25th, it was determined to depose the King, and the unfortunate monarch's atrocious murder at Berkeley Castle on the following St. Matthew's Day, needs scarcely to be alluded to.

We have little more to say of the public career of Hugh Poyntz. He is stated by Dugdale and Banks to have been summoned to parliament until the 7th Edw. III (1333), and that he died 13th October in that year, but Sir Harris Nicolas alleges that he continued to be summoned to the 24th February, 17th Edw. III (1343),<sup>5</sup> but we shall presently see that he was dead in the 11th Edw. III.

King Edward II, in the 17th year of his reign, granted to Hugh Poyntz the custody of the moiety of the manors of Hyneton and Mayne in co. Dorset with appurtenances, which belonged to Peter son of Reginald, deceased, until the legal age of the heir.<sup>6</sup> And on 21st July, 7th Edw. III, an Inquisition was taken at Hoo in Kent to enquire if any damage would arise to the King if licence were granted to Hugh Poyntz to alienate a moiety of the said manor of Hoo to Nicholas Pointz and Alianora, his wife, to hold to the said Nicholas and Alianora and the heirs of their bodies, in default of such issue, remainder to the said Hugh and his heirs for ever.<sup>7</sup> In 1326 he was granted the ultimate remainder in fee of the demesnes of William la Zouche of Harringworth.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Parl. Writs, 18th Edw. II, vol. i, p. 701.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 19th Edw. II, vol. i, pp. 737, 744.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 20th Edw. II, vol. i, p. 757.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 20th Edw. II, vol. i, p. 351.

<sup>5</sup> Synopsis of Peerage, vol. ii, p. 520.

<sup>6</sup> Rot. Orig., 17th Edw. II, No. 4.

<sup>7</sup> Inq. ad q.d., 7th Edw. III (2nd Nos.), No. 48.

<sup>8</sup> Parl. Writs, 19th Edw. II, vol. ii, p. 286.



He married Margaret daughter of Sir Walter Paynell of Brook, co. Wilts, Knt., but we know not precisely when he died. It is not stated in his Inquisition post mortem. In the Inquisition taken at Tokynton, on 10th June, 11th Edward III., the jurors say the said Hugh Poyntz on the day on which he died did not hold any lands of the King in capite in the county of Gloucester, but that he held the manor of Tokynton for the term of his life of the enfeofment of Nicholas Poinz, parson of the church of St. Mary of Hoo, and Hugh de Mehplush, parson of the church of Corymalet, by fine levied in the Court of the now King, and after his death remainder to Nicholas Poyntz his son and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and they say the said manor is held of Hugh de Audele as of his manor of Thornbury by the service of one knight; and they say further that Nicholas Poyntz, son of the aforesaid Hugh is next heir of the said Hugh and is aged 17 years.<sup>1</sup> Besides this son, he had a daughter named Johanna, for it appears from an Inquisition taken at Yetminster on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Martin, 11th Edw. III., that he had granted to Johanna his daughter a pension of £10 per annum out of the manor of Stoke St. Edward and Batecombe which is parcel of the manor of Stoke St. Edward, for the term of her life, which grant had never been remised nor quitclaimed to the said Hugh.<sup>2</sup>

Nicholas Poyntz did homage for his lands and had livery of seizin thereof in 1340, as soon as he came of age, but he was never summoned to parliament. The following Inquisition, taken the year after, is of great interest, as shewing the nature of agricultural crops and their comparative value. It is an extent and appraisement of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of Nicholas Poyntz, Knt., taken at Cory Malet on ..... next after the feast of St. John ante port Lat. 19th Edward III. The jurors say the said Nicholas had at Cory Malet 85 acres of land sown with wheat, of the value of £34, price per acre 8s.; also 9½ acres sown with beans, value 57s., price per acre 6s.; also 8 acres sown with barley, price 48s.; price per acre 6s.; also 70½ acres sown with peas, value £14 2s. 0d., price per acre 4s.; sum of the aforesaid £53 7s. They say he had also there one court in which are buildings, the easements are worth five marks, and two gardens the value of which per annum is 30s.; one dovecote the value of which per annum is 20s.; and he had also 200 and four score and one acres of arable land there, the value of which per annum is £22 4s. 11d., price per acre 19d.; he had there 55 acres of meadow which is of the value of £18 6s. 8d., price per acre half a mark; pasture in the park there value per annum 100s.; he had there 13 acres of pasture value per annum 45s. 6d., price

<sup>1</sup> Inq. p.m., 11th Edw. III. (1st Nos), No. 45.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. p.m., 11th Edw. III. (1st Nos), No. 43.

per acre 3s. 6d.; he had there one windmill worth per annum 28s., he had there 16 tenants in villanage who together held half a virgate of land and render one with another 11s. 9d.; 22 tenants in villanage who hold one fardell of land each and render per annum £8 16s. 0d.: viz., one with another 8s., two tenants who render 14s. 8d., three "coterelli,"<sup>1</sup> who render per annum 3s. 9d., sixteen free tenants who render per annum £8 15s. 0d. He had there of rents of overland per annum 40s. 6d., customary works per annum 3s. 4d., and pleas and perquisites of the court there per annum 10 marks. Sum of the extent aforesaid  
 iiiij<sup>xx</sup> xj<sup>li</sup> xvjs<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>.

In the 29th Edw. III. (1355), Thomas, third Lord Berkeley, purchased to himself and Katherine his wife, and the heirs male of their bodies, of Piers Chilworth, the manor of Tokinton for the quiet enjoying whereof against Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Cory Malet, they had from Piers a rent charge of £40 per annum out of Broadway and Ellworth; and afterwards he purchased out the right and interest of Sir Nicholas Pointz with the advowson of the Chapel there by deed without date.<sup>2</sup> The manor of Tokinton, as we have seen, had been vested in the family from time immemorial. We know not what interest Piers Chillworth had in it. He was probably a mortgagee. Nor do we know the date of the death of Sir Nicholas Poyntz. The Inquisition taken thereupon does not appear to be now extant, but we find two Inquisitions of a somewhat unusual character, from which we may infer that his pecuniary circumstances were not very satisfactory, which would tend to support the suggestion we have offered above as to the sale of Tokinton, and possibly account for his not having received a summons to parliament.<sup>3</sup> The first of these was taken at Berkeley on 2nd March, 1360-1, being an extent of the lands, goods, &c., which belonged to the said Nicholas Poyntz, Knt., on the 4th June, 33rd Edw. III (1359), in the county of Gloucester. The jurors say that he had at that date in the county of Gloucester and afterwards, in Tokinton, one manor in which was one messuage and one carucate of land, 30 acres of meadow, one

<sup>1</sup> *Coterrellus*—that is a servile tenant who holds his lands in mere villanage. A *vilan in gross* whose person, issue and goods may be disposed of at the pleasure of the lord.

<sup>2</sup> Charter in Berkeley Castle. See Berkeley MSS., Smyth's *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. i, p. 330.

<sup>3</sup> Rank and honours lapse for lack of means to support the dignity. A learned civilian holdeth that *diminutis divitiis, diminuitur honor, nam dat census honores, census amicitias*. In the 17th Edw. IV. George Nevill, Duke of Bedford, son and heir of John Nevill, Marquis Montagu, was degraded from the degree of Duke, Marquis, Earl, and Baron for want of means to support his rank. (Rot. Parl., 17 Edw. IV., m. 12, No. 16). And again, as late as 1640, the right of Roger Stafford, who was *de jure* Baron Stafford, was set aside, because he had no means to support the title and dignity of a Baron. (State Papers, vol. ececlxvii, 47).

park, and one windmill, and that the value per annum was seven marks, and that it was let to farm; and they also say that he had on the said 4th June and afterwards there rent of assize per annum £20, and they say further that he had not on the said 4th June or afterwards, any other lands, goods or chattels in the county of Gloucester, and that Robert de Hunteley and Thomas Francklyn of the county Somerset had the goods and chattels of the said Nicholas on the said 4th June and afterwards. This is explained by another Inquisition taken at Berkeley on the same day being an extent taken before Thomas Moigne Sheriff of Gloucester by virtue of a writ from the King to the said sheriff directed, at the suit of Richard Lamb, mercer, and Robert Webbe, citizens of London. The jurors say that Nicholas Poyns, Robert de Huntely and Thomas Frankeleyn of the county of Somerset have no goods or chattels nor had any lands and tenements on the 4th June 1359, or afterwards, in co. Gloucester which can be valued or extended, because that the said Nicholas Poyns, Robert de Huntele, and Thomas Frankeleyn on 4th June, 1359, acknowledged that they owed, viz.: each of them for the whole to Richard Lamb and Robert Webbe £320 in the quindene of St. Martin then next to come, and have not yet paid the same to them. The extent was to be made known to the King on the morrow of St. Gregory following. T. at Westminster 8th February, 35th Edward III. (1360).<sup>1</sup>

Sir Nicholas Poyntz married Alianora the daughter of Sir John Erleigh. We know not the date of his death, but he left no other issue than two daughters, Margaret the wife of Sir John Newburgh of Lullworth, co. Dorset, and Amicia, who married John Barry and died s.p., so that the barony is in abeyance between the descendants of Margaret.<sup>2</sup>

This ends the line of Poyntz of Cory Malet.

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<sup>1</sup> Escheats 35th Edward III., Part I, No. 131.

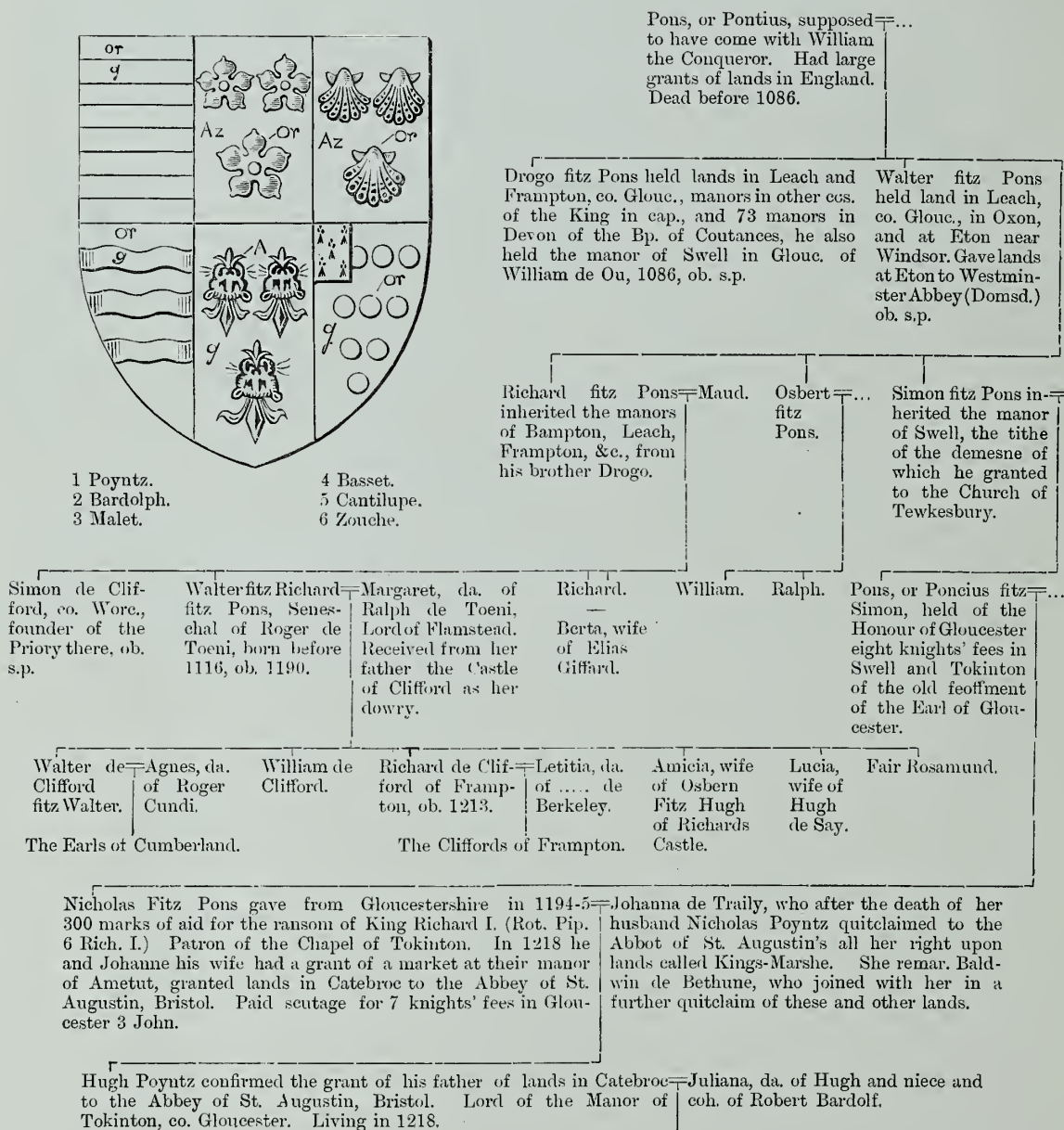
E<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Banks's "Baronage," vol. i, p. 401.



## PEDIGREE OF POYNTZ OF CORY MALET.

TABLE I.



## A

Hugh Poyntz, son and heir, a minor in 4th H. III, his wardship and marriage granted to Gilbert Earl of Gloucester (Rot. Claus. 14th Hen. III., 1229-30). Died before April 1219.

Helewisia, dau. and coh. of William Malet, Baron of Cory Malet, by Alice, dau. and coh. of Thomas Lord Basset of Hedington, remar. in 1221 Robert de Muscegros.

Ralph Poyntz had grant of the wardship and marriage of the heir of his brother Hugh Poyntz, 1233-4.

Sir Nicholas Poyntz, son and heir, Lord of Cory Malet, co. Som., Sutton, in Dorset, Hoo, in Kent, Tokinton, in Glouc., and Dollingham, in Camb. He was still a minor in 1232. His wardship and marriage granted to his uncle, 18th Hen. III. (1233-4). In 1251 he exchanged lands in Swell with the Prior and Monks of Great Malvern, and other lands with Richard Earl of Cornwall. Died 1272. Inq. p.m. 1 Edw. I., No. 17.

Elizabeth, dau. and coheir of Timothy Dyall.

Sir Hugh Poyntz, son and heir, aged 21 years on his father's death, did homage for his Barony 2 Ed. I., and was summoned to Parl. from 23rd of that King. Held the Manor of Tokinton and presented one Walter Manford to the Chapel there 1293. (Worc., Bishop Gifford's Reg., fo. 195). Served in person in the Welsh and other wars. Died cir. 1307. Inq. p.m. 1 Edw. II., No. 46.

Margaret, da. of Sir William Paveley.

Elizabeth, dau. of Eudo de la Zouche of Harringworth, (by Milicent his wife, dau. of William Cantilupe, Lord Bergevenny), and coheir of her brother George. 1 wife.

Sir Nicholas Poyntz, son and heir, 2 Baron of Cory Malet, aged 28 years on his father's death. Summoned to Parl. from 1308-9 to 1311. Died 1311, seized, *inter alia*, of the Manor of Tokinton and of many Knights' fees in Dorset and Somerset. Inq. p.m. 5th Edw. II., No. 62.

Matilda, dau. and coh. of Sir John Acton of Iron Acton, by Margery, dau. and coh. of John d'Anvre or Aln, of co. Som., 2 wife, assigned dower in her husband's lands 1314.

Hugh Poyntz, son and heir, 3 Baron of Cory Malet, aged 18 years on his father's death. Certified to be of full age 1316. Summ. to Parl. from 1317 to 1330. Served in the Scots Wars. Died on the feast of the Annun. B.V.M. 13th Edw. III. Inq. p.m. 20th Edw. III., Part 1, No. 1.

Margaret, da. of Sir Walter Paynel of Brook, co. Wilts, Knt.

Nicholas Poyntz of Hoo, co. Kent. 2 son. See TABLE II.

Sir John Poyntz, son and heir of his mother. See TABLE III.

Sir Nicholas Poyntz, son and heir, aged 19 years on his father's death. Did homage for his lands and had livery of seizin in 1340, but was never summ. to Parl. He alienated the Manor of Tokinton to Thomas Lord Berkeley. Date of death not known. Escheats 35th Edw. III, Part 1, No. 131.

Alianora, da. of Sir John Erleigh, Knt.

Johanna, to whom her father granted a pension out of the Manor of Stoke St. Edward and Batecombe.

Margaret, dau. and coheir, wife of Sir John Newburgh of Lullworth, co. Dorset.

Amicia, wife of John Barry, ob. s.p.

## CHAPTER II.

## POYNTZ OF ESSEX.

We have seen (ante page 19) that Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Cory Malet, Knt., the second Baron of that name, died seized *inter alia* of the Manor of Hoo in the county of Kent, leaving Hugh his eldest son, by his first marriage with Elizabeth de la Zouche, his nearest heir, who was born on the feast of All Saints 1292. He would, therefore, be of full age on 2nd November 1313. We do not know exactly when he obtained seizin of his lands, but he was certified on the 5th March 1316 as Lord, or joint Lord, of the hundred of Hoo in Kent and the advowsons of the Churches of SS. Margaret and Werburgh at Hoo. It should, however, be stated that a certain Nicholas Poyntz was about this date parson of the Church of St. Mary at Hoo, who was one of the trustees under a settlement of the Manor of Tokington to the use of Hugh Poyntz for the term of his life, with remainder to Nicholas Poyntz his son and heir and the heirs of his body.<sup>1</sup> This cleric could not have been the founder of a family. After an Inquisition *ad quod damnum*, taken at Hoo 21st July, 7th Edw. III., (1333) Hugh Poyntz obtained the royal licence to alienate a moiety of the Manor of Hoo to Nicholas Poyntz and Alianora his wife, to hold to the said Nicholas and Alianora and the heirs of the said Nicholas begotten of the body of the said Alianora. In default of such issue remainder to the said Hugh and his heirs for ever.<sup>2</sup> He kept it not long however. On Monday in Whitsun week, 1345, an Inquisition was taken at Rochester to enquire if any damage would arise to the King or others if Nicholas Poyntz were permitted to enfeof John de Grey of Codnere in the manor of Hoo, excepting the advowson of the church, in exchange for the manors of Brodeway and Estelleworth in the county of Dorset, and inasmuch as the jurors saw no objection, the exchange was allowed to be effected,<sup>3</sup> and in the following year the advowson of the church, with one acre of land, was also so alienated.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inq. p.m. 11th Edw. III. (1st Nos.), No. 43.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. ad quod damnum, 19th Edw. III. (2 Nos.), No. 60.

<sup>2</sup> Esch. 7th Edw. III. (2 Nos.), No. 48.

<sup>4</sup> Inq. 20th Edw. III. (2 Nos.), No. 3a.



It appears from the Visitation of Essex in 1612 that this Nicholas was the second son of Sir Nicholas Poyntz, Knt., by the aforesaid Elizabeth Zouche, and the father of another Nicholas who was of North Wokenden or Ockenden in that county in 47th Edw. III. (1372).<sup>1</sup> "The Old Home of the Poyntz family of North Ockenden Hall, abuts on the south side of the Church-yard. It is still a handsome house, but modernised. One of its ancient insignia, its well-stocked moat, is still there full of memories of the past."<sup>2</sup>

The last named Nicholas is shewn to be the father of Poncius, or Poyntz Poyntz, Esq., who is said to have been living in 1392, and was doubtless the same person who in 1393, under the name of Pontius, presented to the Church of North Ockenden. It is said his wife's name was Elinor and that she was living in this year. It is elsewhere said that his name was Henry, and that the said Henry married Elianor daughter of . . . Baudwin of Essex. And it may be here observed that there is a gravestone in the floor of the church covering the grave of a William Baudwin, who died in 1316. This William might have been the grandfather of Elianor. The pedigree of the family of Poyntz of Essex is so far very unsatisfactory and uncertain, but it is the best we can deduce from the conflicting statements. Poncius Poyntz had a younger brother named Edward. Poncius left a son and heir, Sir John Poyntz, Knt., who is said to have been living in 1351, more than 40 years before his father's death. In the Essex Visitation before quoted his wife is said to have been called "Maude," but he married Eleanor daughter of Sir John Daucote (Deincourt), Knt., and died in 1447, and his wife appears to have pre-deceased him. He does not mention her in his will dated 12th March 1446-7, in which he describes himself as John Pointz, Esq., of North Wokenden, and directs that he shall be buried in the chapel of St. Mary there. He names his sons John, Reginald, and Thomas upon whom he settles his estates in tail male, and in default of such issue upon their sisters Agnes and Matilda, in default on the right heirs of his late mother Alianora.<sup>3</sup> There is a monument to him in North Wokenden Church, in which mention is made of Alianora his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir John Daucote, Knight, of his son and heir John, and of his daughters Matilda and Margaret, but the latter having probably been previously married to John de Bynges, Gent., is not named in the will, having doubtless been already portioned. It may, however, be here mentioned that the early Poyntz monuments in this church are not of much value as evidence, the

<sup>1</sup> Harl. Soc., vol. xiii, p. 268.

<sup>2</sup> Palin's "More about Stifford."

<sup>3</sup> Prob. Lambeth 13th May 1447, Stafford's Reg. 149.

inscriptions having been composed by Sir Gabriel Poyntz when, in 1606, he built a family vault in the church.<sup>1</sup>

John Poyntz succeeded his father in his estates, and in the following year presented to the Church of North Okenden, as he did again in 1463. He married Matilda daughter and coheir of William Perth of Aveley, who predeceased him. By his will, in which he describes himself as *Johannes filius ac heres Johannis senioris*, dated 15th April 1469, he directs that his body shall be buried at North Okenden at the "auters end before y<sup>e</sup> imadg of St. Andrew," and leaves money to the new work of the steeple of the church and to the glazing of the window at the west end. He names his son Thomas, his daughters Thomasine, Catherine and Ann Poynes, and gives to Maud his wife his lordship of North Ho, with advowson to William my son.<sup>2</sup> His daughter Beatrix he does not name, probably because she was already married to John Cheek of Debenham and provided for.

William Poyntz on his father's death succeeded to the family estates. Jointly with Edmund Shaa, Alderman of London, he presented to the church of North Okenden in 1480. That gentleman was son of John Shaa of Droukenfield, co. Chester, and was of the Goldsmiths' Company. He was Sheriff of London in 1474 and Lord Mayor in 1483.<sup>3</sup> On his death, before 1487, he bequeathed 500 marks for rebuilding the postern gate at Cripplegate, which had fallen into ruin, which work was carried out in 1490.<sup>4</sup> William Poyntz married Elizabeth the daughter of this gentleman, and after his death, in 1487, he presented solely to the church of North Okenden. The marriage settlements upon this alliance will account for Alderman Shaa being united with him in

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Suckling, in his "Memorials of the Essex Churches," says, "By far the most remarkable feature in North Ockenden Church is the succession of monumental tablets erected (by Sir Gabriel Poyntz, Kt.) to the family of Poyntz. There are eleven mural slabs, besides several brass plates and two effigies in praying attitude. The mural slabs seem all to have been put up at one time, and during the reign of James I. They partake of one general character, viz.: a pediment supported by two Grecian columns, having kneeling figures in the recess, and an inscription below. The minuter details, however, are varied, and what is singular and gives the greater value to the series is that every figure is appropriately habited in the costume peculiar to the time in which he flourished. So minutely are these distinctions observed, that the very dressing of the female hair, and the beard and moustache of the warrior are trimmed with scrupulous exactness. These mural monuments are of small proportions, but we bestow more attention on them than on the adjoining recumbent figures, which coarsely carved in full proportion recline beneath canopies resplendent with paint and gilding."

<sup>2</sup> Godyn, but no date of probate.

<sup>3</sup> Herbert's "History of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of London," vol. ii, p. 200.

<sup>4</sup> Wriothesley's "Chronicle," Camden Society, 1875, p. 2; Denton's "History of St. Giles, Cripplegate," p. 76.

the patronage of the church. Elizabeth Shaa was also the sister of Sir John Shaa, likewise a goldsmith. He represented the City of London in Parliament in 1496 and 1502, in which latter year he was elected Lord Mayor.<sup>1</sup> Lord Mayor's show was instituted in 1453-4, but the more costly of the pageants were discontinued in 1685. Sir John Shaa caused his brethren the Aldermen to ride from the Guildhall to the river side when he went to Westminster to be presented to the Exchequer.<sup>2</sup> It appears from the monument in North Okenden Church that Elizabeth the wife of William Poyntz died 21st August 1502, and her husband followed her to the grave in 1504. Sir John Shaa, Knt. in his will, dated 26th December 1503, mentions his brother Poyntz.<sup>3</sup>

John Poyntz, son and heir of William, succeeded his father in the North Okenden estates and presented to the Church in 1531 and 1546. He married Ann, daughter and coheir of Isaac Sibelles, a lady of Buckinghamshire. She had been previously married, but the name of her former husband is unknown to us. Her daughter Frances was the wife of John Asteley of Constable Melton, Norfolk. This John Poyntz, like his kinsman Sir Robert of Iron Acton, was attached to the Household of Queen Katherine of Arragon as one of the Sewers of the Queen's Chamber, and was in attendance upon her at the magnificent interview between the Kings of England and France, commonly known as the "Field of the Cloth of Gold," in 1520.<sup>4</sup> He was a friend of Sir Thomas Wyat, and was the person to whom Sir Thomas addressed two of his poetical epistles. In one of these, addressed to John Poyntz, he concludes with these lines:

" But I am here in Kent and Christendome  
 'Among the Muses, where I reade and rime ;  
 Where, if thou list, *mine own John Poyntz*, to come  
 Thou shalt be judge, how I do spende my time."

*Letter from Allington Castle, Kent.*

John Poyntz died *sine prole* 13th June 1547, having made his will on the 30th of the preceding month.<sup>5</sup> In it he names his brother Thomas, his sisters Barleymay and Sponer, and Frideswide, daughter of his brother Edmund. He leaves his personal estate to his wife Ann and devises the reversion of the manor, after the death of his brother Thomas, in default of heirs, to Gabriel,

<sup>1</sup> Herbert, ii, p. 200.

<sup>2</sup> Burton's "Historical Remarks on London," p. 73.

<sup>3</sup> Prob. 13th May 1504 P.C.C. (13 Holgrave.)

<sup>4</sup> Rymer's "Foedera," vol. vi, p. 182.

<sup>5</sup> There is a portrait of him published in "Historic Portraits of the Court of Henry VIII," from drawings by Hans Holbein in Windsor Castle.



son and heir of Thomas and his heirs with remainder to Vernando and Robert, brothers of Gabriel in tail male; names his late father, William Poyntz, and directs that his body shall be buried in North Ockenden Church under the arch between the chancel and the Chapel of Our Lady.<sup>1</sup>

His relict survived her husband about seven years, and in 1554 presented to the Church of North Ockenden, and died a few days after the institution of her Clerk. She made two wills, both of which were proved. In her first will, dated in 1550, she makes bequests to the children of her daughter, Frances Asteley, some of which bequests are worth noting, *e.g.*, To Bridget Asteley, eldest child and daughter, a browch all of golde with this scripture about it: *Mieux suys bocage que toy dan la cage* (*i.e.*, *mieux suys bocage que toi dans la cage*), and a woman enamyled white and a cage hanging on a ragged staf with a bird enclosed in it, a standing boole of silver with cover all gilte, pois xxvij oz. quar. d. d. and xx<sup>1</sup> in money. To Ann Asteley, second child and second daughter, a tablet of gold, with Adam and Eve tempted by the spirite, figured over theyr heddes, one on thone side and this scripture about it: "Come forth Trowghte thoughe false hoode be wrowthe," and on the other side: a man holding a brawnych of flowers in his hand and a woman holding a harte in her hand, and this scripture about them: "Take you here my harte with love and love more"—a ringe of gold, a turkys in yt. —more 15 score and xxij links of my own chayn of gold' fashioned like the lyncks of a coat of male, and not much bigger, but somewhat thycker than they commonlyke—more, an eye for a billyment<sup>2</sup> of xj garnet stones, round, like heddes, and xliij peaces of gold between them enamyled blew in the mydest—more, a playne salte of silver with a cover gilte, poiz by estimacion xxij oz.—more, two standing potts of silver all gilte, with drawen strypes playn, poiz iiij<sup>xx</sup>xij oz—more a dozen silver spoones with 12 Apostles, parcel gilt, poiz ..... oz d. d.—more, a gilt spoone with Christ at the ende poiz by estimacion one oz. d.d. and in gold half soverans of H. viij coyn £60.

To Isaac Asteley, a hoope of gold, my first husband's wedding ringe sometime.

To Jacob Asteley, the said Frances fyveth child alive and her second sonne alive in birth, Maister Pointz chayne of gold sometyme, of tenne score and five lyncks fasioned rounde.

To Cheney Asteley sixth child alive, and in age the third sonne in birth, our Lady assumed, all in gold, with her Sonne in her arms, and sitting

<sup>1</sup> Probate, 18 May 1547, P.C.C. (39 Alen.)

<sup>2</sup> *Billaments*.—The attire or ornaments of a woman's head, or neck,—a necklace.

on the half mone, with a ruby stone in yt, and a ringe of gold with a ruby in yt, a standinge boole of silver with a cover graven all over without, poiz xxxij oz.

To Rebecca daughter of the said Frances Asteley, a broche all of gold with a woman sitting upon a wheal and slawinge<sup>1</sup> a lion by the bache (St. Catherine); a ringe of gold with a stone in yt of a red stone graven with an old crooked man; a gilt goblet with a cover graven with the Pointz arms and my own in the top xxxj oz.

All these beautiful and valuable articles of jewelled plate, except "my first husband's wedding ringe," were probably the property of the Poyntz family, possibly heirlooms, and the bequests shew the folly of a weak or uxorious husband giving his wife, who has children only by a former husband, power to dispose of the family plate. What would be its value if it were in existence now!

The second will of Ann Poyntz was dated on the 16th May 1554. In this she willed to be buried according to the orders and customs of the Catholic Church, with such honest obsequies and rites as to her state and degree should be thought convenient, and she makes further bequests of jewelry. She probably died the same day.<sup>2</sup> She would appear to have been buried at St. Dunstan's in the West, London, for "upon an old worne stone below the little east door occur the following arms: Barry Or and Gules, in chief a mullet (for difference) (POYNTZ) impaling Gyronny of eight Az. and Or, four martlets in lozenge counterchanged (SIBELLES)."<sup>3</sup>

Thomas Poyntz on the death of his brother John succeeded to the Manor of North Ockenden, and the relict of his said brother being dead, in 1556 he presented to the church, as he did again in 1559. He was a London Merchant resident at Antwerp, where he married Ann Van Calva, daughter and one of the coheirs of John Calva, a native of Germany. Here his children were born, and in 1541 an Act of Parliament was obtained for their naturalization, in the preamble to which he is described as "Thomas Poyntz of London Grocer, occupying the seate of marchaundise in the Partes beyond the seas." He is

<sup>1</sup> Slaying. "I would not that, sayd Robyn,  
Johan that thou were *slave*  
For all the golde in mery England,  
Though it lay now on a rawe."

HALLIWELL. "Robin Hood," i, 54.

<sup>2</sup> Probate, 18 May 1554.

<sup>3</sup> "Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica," vol. iv, pp. 106, 108.

connected with an interesting episode in the history of the Reformation. Whilst resident at Antwerp Tyndale was his guest for nearly a year. Tyndale, by the treachery of spies, was betrayed into the hands of the Emperor's officers and was brought to trial at Augsburg, where he was condemned to be burnt. His last words were—"Lord, open the King of England's eyes." Thomas Poyntz nearly shared the same fate for his fearless intervention to procure the release of Tyndale through King Henry VIII, his brother John Poyntz having been in the household of Queen Katherine many years. His appeal was in vain. He was cast into prison from which he fortunately escaped, in circumstances of great peril, to England.<sup>1</sup> His letter to his brother is dated 25th August 1535.<sup>2</sup> Thomas Poyntz died intestate, and was buried at St. Dunstan's in the West on 5th May 1562. Administration was granted on the 6th of the following month to Gabriel Poyntz his son.

Thomas Poyntz left four children, three sons and a daughter: viz., Gabriel, son and heir, of whom we will write presently; 2, Ferdinando (or Varnando); 3, Robert; 4, Susanna.

Ferdinando Poyntz was a merchant of London, residing at St. Dunstan's in the East (? West), and was a man of some importance. The Lords of the Council addressing the Prince of Orange on 4th March 1577-8, commended to him Ferdinand Poyntz, a merchant of London and a man of repute, who is coming to him about the matters of the English Merchants, whose ships and merchandise have been arrested by his commandment, and to take the bonds of the Estates of Holland and Zealand for the repayment of the money given for their release.<sup>3</sup>

He was also somewhat of an engineer. In 1582, when considerable works were found to be necessary for the protection of Dover Harbour, Fernando Poyntz sent in to the Privy Council plans, specifications and estimates for the execution of the work, and upon a comparison of the charges according to the plan presented by all the Commissioners of the Harbour and the plan offered by Mr. Poyntz, that of the latter was accepted by the Council. Jealousies, however, immediately began to display themselves. Mr. Poyntz on 20th May complains to Lord Burleigh of obstructions to his proceedings and false reports raised against himself. Funds, however, were ordered to be placed at his disposal. Further particulars were offered by Mr. Poyntz for carrying on the work according to his "platt," perhaps to meet the objections of his enemies, and

<sup>1</sup> Anderson's "History of the Bible," p. 233.

<sup>2</sup> Cott. MSS. Galba, B. 8.

<sup>3</sup> State Papers, Elizabeth, Foreign.



the price for which he would make the same, which particulars we find in the handwriting of Burleigh. On 27th June Articles were agreed upon between the Lords and others of the Privy Council for executing the repair of the harbour according to the above, and the work was commenced. On 14th August Lord Cobham, Warden of the Cinque Ports, John Garnett, Mayor of Dover, and other Commissioners for the harbour, apply to Sir Thomas Scott, Treasurer of the Works, for the payment of £445 to Fernando Poyntz, he having already received £500, to be employed on the works, and the same parties on the same day wrote to Sir Thomas Scott desiring that £55 may be paid to Mr. Poyntz for the works.

Mr. Poyntz had not, however, got rid of his difficulties. Richard Barrey, the Lieutenant of Dover Castle, seems not to have borne good will towards him. In December he writes to the Lords of the Council stating that he had signified to Mr. Poyntz their Lordships' commands for the present making of two "groynes" for the support of the harbour, and that he had desired Mr. Bedwell to see that Poyntz does not neglect it. A month later (26th January 1583) he writes to Lord Cobham stating that the mouth of the harbour had been opened these eight days, and says that, in his opinion, the works would not stand any tempestuous weather, and adds that nothing had been done towards constructing the two "groynes:" also some days afterwards the Commissioners state their opinion that Mr. Poyntz's works are weak and slender, and that order should be taken for one "groyne" forthwith, under the direction of the Lieutenant of the Castle and the Mayor of Dover. Fernando reports his proceedings to Sir Francis Walsingham and complains of the partial conduct of the Lieutenant, for what he misliketh there are but few that dare say to the contrary, and he adds that the principal timber he had procured is now like to be wasted in the "groynes." He further desires to be released from his task. At the same time the Mayor (Thomas Andrews) and jurats of Dover writing to the Council give their favourable opinion of the works constructed by Mr. Poyntz. They say, "the storms and foul weather and the infamous libels of some lewd disposed persons might have dismayed him." Nevertheless three weeks afterwards the same parties write again to the Council urging the necessity of immediately proceeding with the long wall.

We have no means of forming an opinion upon the merits of the case, but Mr. Poyntz from the beginning appears to have been subjected to persecution. He was obliged to succumb. On 25th April 1583 he wrote to Walsingham reporting the state of the works when he left them, and offering to fill up the opening he had made for the harbour if it should be thought

not worth the maintenance, and stating that he had cleared up all accounts to the end of March.<sup>1</sup>

He married Elizabeth daughter of Samuel Johnson of Flintshire, and had a daughter named Sarah, who became the first wife of Clement Harbie of London,<sup>2</sup> and had a son Sir Clement Harby, Consul in the Morea, who was knighted at Whitehall 21st April 1669. He died intestate in 1586, and administration of his effects was granted to Elizabeth his relict on 12th May in that year.

Of Robert Poyntz we know nothing except that he is named in the monumental inscription to his father erected in North Ockenden Church.

Susanna Poyntz was the wife for fifty years of Sir Richard Saltonstall, Knt., who was Lord Mayor of London in 1598, by whom she had seven sons and nine daughters. He died 17th March 1601, and she, surviving, was executrix to his will,<sup>3</sup> and erected to his memory in the chapel of South Ockenden Church, where he was buried, a sumptuous monument. She died in 1613, and by her will,<sup>4</sup> dated 16th November 1612, directed that her body should be buried in the same church.

Gabriel Poyntz, eldest son and heir of Thomas Poyntz and Ann Calva, was born in 1538, and by licence from the Bishop of London, dated 14th November 1568, he married Etheldreda (Audrey), daughter of Peter Cutts of Debden, Esq., and relict of Ralph Latham of North Ockenden, who made his will only on the 3rd September previously appointing her his sole executrix, and she proved the said will<sup>5</sup> as Audree Latham on the 15th October: just a month before her re-marriage to Gabriel Poyntz. She died on the 2nd December 1594, and was buried in North Ockenden Church.

Gabriel Poyntz presented to the church of North Ockenden in 1569 and in 1582. In 1577 he was Sheriff for Essex, as he was a second time in 1589. It appears from a note in "Notes and Queries" in 1853 that there was then a portrait at Bradley, Ashbourne, co. Derby, inscribed Gabriel Poyntz, An. Domini 1568, ætatis suæ 36, and having thereon the arms: Barry of eight, Or and Gu. with a crest very indistinct but resembling a lion's head and the motto "CLAINTE REFRAINTE."<sup>6</sup> The portrait was painted in the year in which Gabriel

<sup>1</sup> State Papers, Elizabeth, 1582-1583, Vols. clvi, clviii, clx, clx, clxii, numerous papers in each volume.

<sup>2</sup> He was second son of Thomas Harby of Adston, Northants, Esq., and elder brother of Job Harby, created Baronet of Aldenham 17th July 1660.

<sup>3</sup> Prob. 9th May 1601, P.C.C. (32 Woodhall.)

<sup>4</sup> Prob. 23rd Feb. 1612-13, P.C.C. (10 Capell.)

<sup>5</sup> Prob. 15 Oct. 1568 (20 Babington).

<sup>6</sup> "Notes and Queries," 1 Series, vol. viii, p. 449.

Poyntz was married, when, according to his own shewing, he was thirty years of age, and it is probable that the figures denoting the age of the subject of the portrait, like the crest, which should be a cubit arm, fist clenched, had become indistinct, and had been erroneously read for thirty-six instead of for thirty.

In 1595 Gabriel Poyntz was resident in Aldgate, and he received the honour of knighthood at Whitehall on 30th May 1604.

Sir Gabriel had two children : 1st, Thomas his son and heir ; and 2nd, Katherine.

Thomas was a member of Gray's Inn, and on the 3rd March 1595-6 married Jane daughter of Sir William Peryam, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, born in 1573. Thomas Poyntz died 17th December 1597 intestate, leaving issue two infant daughters named Audrey and Susan, and Jane his relict administered to his effects on 4th July 1598. She married secondly, as his second wife, Thomas Dockwra of Putteridge, co. Herts, Esq., and died 15th March 1605-6. These orphan children in their tender years were left therefore to the natural guardianship of their grandfather.

Sir Gabriel, who was very desirous that his lands of inheritance in Essex should descend in his own name, was naturally disappointed at the early death of his only son without issue male, and it is alleged, by John Poyntz alias Morris, son of Edward Morris, 2nd son of James Morris, attorney for the Court of Wards and Liveries, which John had assumed the name of Poyntz, to which he could not have any possible claim, when he appeared as a claimant to the Poyntz estates in Essex and other lands, upon forged documents, that upon failure of the issue of his uncle his said grandfather James Morris, being desirous of settling his Manor of Chipping Ongar and other lands upon his heirs male in tail, conferred thereon with Gabriel Poyntz, and it was agreed between him and the said Gabriel Poyntz that John Morris's eldest son and heir apparent of the said James Morris, should take to wife Katherine Poyntz the only daughter of the said Gabriel upon divers considerations : viz., that £1000 was to be paid upon the conveyance to Gabriel in lieu of their portion, and to the end that Audrey and Susan should not claim any interest in the lands of their grandfather Gabriel, and £3000 was to be paid unto Audrey and Susan Poyntz, the two daughters of Thomas Poyntz and grandchildren of Gabriel, in lieu of their portions, and in consideration the said John Morris and his heirs should ever write their names Pointz alias Morris, and be called by that name, to bear up the name of the Poyntzes and their arms, which "intencion" is made upon record in the Heralds' Office.<sup>1</sup> This

<sup>1</sup> Chancery Bills (Whittington), No. 16, Hil. 1652.



avermment on the part of the fraudulent claimant would seem to have been carried out to the disinherison of the two infant daughters of Thomas Poyntz of their ancestral estates, Gabriel Poyntz "preferring," in the words of another deponent, "the sons of his daughter to the daughters of his son." John Morris was born in 1569 and was knighted 22nd May 1603, and Katherine his daughter died before her father.

Sir Gabriel Poyntz made his will 23rd July 1606. He gave to Elizabeth Morris and Ann Morris the daughters of Lady Catherine Morris, late wife to Sir John Morris of Chipping Ongar, £400 each of ready money which he then had in the house; gives 20s. a year to be employed yearly upon the reparation, mayntenance, &c., of the monuments, tombs, vautes, and other remembrances that he had caused to be made in the north chapel of the church of North Okenden for ever; and he does not "revoke the money given, assigned, lymited, and appointed to be paid out of my lands to Audry Poyntz and Susan Poyntz, daughters of my late son Thomas Poyntz, deceased, by a Deed of Uses that I have made of all my lands to Richard Cutts and William Cutts, Esquires, to certain uses therein contayned, bearing date 1604. Sir John Morris, Knt., my executor to dispose of my goods and chattels as he shall think convenient." In a memorandum annexed he mentions his sister Burton's daughters she had by Arnett.<sup>1</sup> As executor of the will of Sir Gabriel Poyntz, Sir John Poyntz, alias Morris, would naturally become the guardian of the orphan daughters of Thomas Poyntz, but to this exception was taken by Sir John Cutts, probably the uncle, and Thomas Docwra the stepfather of the children. In March 1608 Sir John Poyntz writing to the Earl of Salisbury expressed himself willing to submit to the Earl's decision in the matter. It would appear that the contention resulted in the children being taken into wardship of the King,<sup>2</sup> and that the charge of their persons was assigned to Sir John Poyntz, certain payments being made for their maintenance by Lady Cutts, who, probably, had charge of their property. In 1616 Lady Cutts, by an order in the Court of Wards, dated 27th October, was required to show cause for the non-payment of money for the maintenance of Audrey and Susan Poyntz, the King's wards, and the unreasonableness of the order was shewn, she having already paid certain sums to Sir John Poyntz.

Audrey Poyntz married Adam Littleton of Stoke Milburgh, co. Salop, created a Baronet 14th October 1642, and died cir. 1647. She died 1648. She was the grandmother of Sir Thomas Littleton, who was elected Speaker of the

Prob. 21st January 1607-8 P.C.C. (3 Windebank.)

<sup>2</sup> State Papers, Domestic, James I, vol. xxxi, 92, 93.

House of Commons in 1698. He died on 1st January 1709-10 s.p., when the title became extinct.

Susan Poyntz, by licence from the office of the Bishop of London, dated 26th April 1617, married at the church of St. Gregory, London, Michael Oldisworth of St. Martin's in the Fields, son of Arnold Oldisworth of Bradley, co. Glouc., Knt.,<sup>1</sup> sometime Clerk of the Hanaper. Michael was Secretary to the Earl of Pembroke, Lord Chamberlain. She died s.p., and her sister Audrey became sole heir.

Katherine Poyntz, Lady Morris, died before her father and was buried in the church of South Okenden. She left issue three sons: 1, James; 2, Uranus and 3, Poyntz, and two or three daughters. Sir John Poyntz married secondly 27th Feb. 1605-6, Lettice, daughter of Edward Fitzgerald, brother of Gerald, 11th Earl of Kildare and relict of Sir Ambrose Coppinger of Dawley Court, Harlington, co. Middx., whose will she proved in 1604.<sup>2</sup> Sir John Poyntz died 31st Jan. 1617-18, his wife, Lady Lettice, surviving, proved his will, dated 22nd May 1617, on the 16th March following,<sup>3</sup> and she herself died 19th December 1621, and was buried in the choir of St. Peter's Church, S. Paul's Wharf, London. Will, nuncupative, dated ten days previous to her death.<sup>4</sup>

Of Uranus Poyntz second son of Sir John Poyntz alias Morris we have no knowledge except that he is mentioned in certain proceedings in Chancery and died before 1643, supposed s.p.

Sir James Poyntz alias Morris, son and heir of Sir John Poyntz alias Morris, who was knighted at Theobalds on 17th March 1616 as "Sir James Poyntz,"<sup>5</sup> succeeded on the death of his father to the Poyntz estates in Essex and presented to the Church of North Okenden in 1619. He was twice married: 1st, to Elizabeth Carew daughter of Sir Nicholas Throckmorton (who assumed the name of Carew) of Beddington, Surrey; and 2ndly, to Mary daughter of Sir Richard Smith of Leeds Castle, Kent, Knt. He died a year after his second marriage, leaving by that marriage an only son named Richard, who was admitted a Fellow Commoner at St. John's College, Cambridge, 15th March 1638-9, aged 15, and died at Montauban in France 15th August 1643, s.p. By his will dated 10th May 1643 he describes himself as of Barmingham, Suffolk, and directs that his body shall be buried in the vault of his ancestors in the Church of North Okenden, but he was buried at Montauban. He gives to this church £50 to buy plate "useful about the

<sup>1</sup> Berkeley MSS., *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. ii, p. 93, and *Hund. of Berkeley*, vol. iii, fo. 110.

<sup>2</sup> Probate 16th Mar. 1617-18, P.C.C. (25 Meade.)

<sup>3</sup> Prob. 7th April 1604, P.C.C. (42 Harte.)

<sup>4</sup> P.C.C. (106 Dale.)

<sup>5</sup> Cott. MSS., Claudius, c. iii.

administration of the Sacrament to the Poor.”<sup>1</sup> He names his mother Dame Mary Poyntz, “my loving uncle Poyntz Morris, Esq., Lady Greville wife of Sir Fulke Greville, my much esteemed aunt,” and others.<sup>2</sup>

On the death of Richard Poyntz s.p. Poyntz Morris his uncle, named in his will, second son of Sir John Poyntz alias Morris, succeeded to the estates and assumed the name of Poyntz. He married a lady named Dorothy, of whose parentage we know nothing. She appears to have been alive in 1645-1647. Poyntz Poyntz himself died 1st December 1643, as found upon the Inquisition taken thereupon at Romford on 12th December 1644, but by another Inquisition taken at the Guildhall, London, on 17th October, 21st Charles I (1645) it is found that he died seized as of fee of Beavis Marke alias Heneage House to himself and his heirs male, in default of such issue remainder to the heirs of James Poyntz alias Morris, deceased, formerly Attorney to the Court of Wards and Liveries, and the jury find that John Pointz alias Morris, Gentleman, is his cousin and nearest heir, and is aged 21 years and more, being son and heir male of Edward (Pointz alias) Morris, deceased, second son of the aforesaid James (Pointz alias) Morris, Attorney in the Court of Wards and Liveries, father of John Pointz alias Morris, Kt., deceased, who was father of James Pointz alias Morris, Esq., father of Richard Pointz alias Morris, Esq., deceased, who was uncle of the aforesaid Pointz Pointz named in the Inquisition. And the jury further say that Dorothy Pointz, widow of Pointz Pointz, survives and lives in London.<sup>3</sup>

This Inquisition is very remarkable. The only persons who had the slightest pretence to the designation of Poyntz as an alias to Morris were, first John Morris, eldest son of James, the Attorney to the Court of Wards and Liveries, derived from his marriage with Katherine daughter and heir of Sir Gabriel Poyntz and the inheritance of the Poyntz estates in Essex, and his issue, possessors of the same property. Even Richard Poyntz in his last will, it will have been noticed, describes his uncle as Poyntz Morris only, shewing that the latter did not assume the alias Poyntz until after he came into possession of the estates. That John Morris son of Edward had by the death of Poyntz Poyntz become heir at law to James Morris, Attorney to the Court of Wards and Liveries, is not denied, but neither he nor any of his issue had any pretence of claim to the designation of Poyntz, and it could only have been foisted into the Inquisition

<sup>1</sup> The old Poyntz flagon was, *with the consent of the Bishop*, sold in 1853 towards building the school, upon the plea that it was uncouth and unwieldy in size!

<sup>2</sup> Probate, 8th November 1644, P.C.C. (2 Rivers.)

<sup>3</sup> Inq. p.m. 21st Ch. I.



through the influence of John Morris, the heir, to favour his ulterior nefarious designs, as we shall see presently.

By the extinction of the issue of Sir John Poyntz, alias Morris, by Katherine Poyntz, on the death of Pointz Pointz alias Morris, the succession to the Poyntz estates in Essex opened to Audrey daughter of Thomas Poyntz and now sole heir of Sir Gabriel Poyntz and her issue by her husband Sir Adam Littleton, and thereupon the said Adam and Audrey entered upon the premises. Their possession, however, was disturbed by the machinations of John Morris, who with certain other persons, contrary to the Statute against Maintenance, confederated together and raised large sums of money in the city of London and elsewhere to prosecute suits of law against Sir Adam Littleton and Dame Audrey his wife to recover the said lands, which, it was alleged, were to be shared among them. A case was brought forward for trial at Chelmsford upon an action of ejectment in 1647, which was supported by divers evidences, including what purported to be an Act of Parliament, all of them fabricated and forged. Sir Adam Littleton and Dame Audrey and John Browne, Esq., the Clerk of the Parliament, made complaint to the Lords of Parliament, and "the confederates were afterwards censured and the forged documents were damned and cancelled by their order."<sup>1</sup>

This would seem to have been one of the most impudent forgeries ever committed. A full detail may be found in the Calendar of Papers in the House of Lords.<sup>2</sup> The petition of Dame Audrey Littleton, late wife of Sir Adam Littleton, deceased, Sir Fulke Greville, Knt., and Maurice Barrow, Esq., complains "notwithstanding it was lately decided that a pretended Act of Parliament used to dispossess petitioners of their land was a forgery, yet Isabel Smith, one of the persons sentenced for the same, being permitted to go at large, obtained access to the records of the Court of Wards, foisted in amongst them spurious documents and then obtained attested copies thereof from Hugh Audeley, the Clerk of the Court, and the petitioners pray for an examination and that Isabel Smith may be kept close prisoner."<sup>3</sup>

Hugh Audeley answers to the petition. As Clerk of the late Court of Wards petitioner has custody of the records of the Court, which are kept in a room called the Treasury at Westminster. About six weeks since, when he was out of town, the Clerk who usually waits in the office told him that a woman wanted copies of some parchments which the book-bearer had brought

<sup>1</sup> Chancery Proceedings, Miscellaneous, 3rd series, part vi.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix to the 6th Report of the Com. on Hist. Manuscripts.

<sup>3</sup> L. S., ix, 474. *In extenso*.

to the office, and when petitioner came to town, seeing that the records were but copies of the originals, and knowing nothing of the proceedings before Parliament, he ordered copies to be made and signed them accordingly. About ten days later some other persons came to the office and took exception against petitioner for giving the copies in question, and asked him to enquire how the parchments were found, when it appeared that Mrs. Smith had desired to search in the Treasury for some records, and that William Berringer the book-bearer and John Beseley an ancient Clerk, had gone in and she with them, as has been usual on occasions of searches, for the Clerk's better instruction in finding the thing searched for ; Beseley first searched in the lower part of the press, where many old patents and counterparts of leases and other loose things were placed, but not finding what Mrs. Smith wanted he told the book-bearer to get the short ladder and go up and look in the upper part of the press, which he did, but refused to meddle with the writings ; upon which Mrs. Smith stepped up the ladder and threw down some loose writings and things out of the upper part of the press, the book-bearer and Beseley both observing what she did, and Beseley then finding the bundle of parchment writings wished her to forbear throwing any more down, but how long this bundle of parchments had been there petitioner cannot say. 12 Oct.

Answer of Isabel Smith. She was intrusted by Mr. Morris to act for him in recovering his lands, and hearing that papers concerning the estate of Morris and Poyntz had been brought into the Court of Wards, and having obtained a note of them, she went with one of the clerks of the Court, the book-bearer, and another client into the Treasury Office, to search for them. Search was made in many places, till the clerk himself said he was weary. She entreated him to go on searching, which he did, till he sat down and bade her search, for he could search no longer. He also told the book-bearer to get a ladder and set it against the press, on which she prayed him to go up, but he being unwieldly and fat bade her go up, which she did, and with both hands plucked many parchments out of the press and threw them down upon the ground, and one of the last, which was at the bottom of the press, was the bundle of writings which concerned Morris, which the clerk perceiving by something written on the back, willed her to come down. The clerk, the book-bearer, and the other client were standing close by the whole time, and looking upon her all the time she was in the room. She denies the charge of forgery or of shuffling in forged papers, or that she had any parchments about her when she went into the room. One of the clerks, when the documents were read, said that he remembered when they were brought into the Court of Wards. She

is an innocent sufferer, and prays the House to release her from imprisonment. Of course there were counter allegations on the other side, but we can only refer to the Lords' Papers, from which we have quoted. The premises continued vested in the Poyntz Littleton family.

Sir Thomas Poyntz Littleton, the second Baronet, succeeded to the estates and married his second cousin Anne only child and heir of Edmund Lord Littleton of Mounslow, co. Salop, and dying in 1681 left an only surviving son Sir Thomas Poyntz Littleton, the third Baronet, who presented to the church of North Okenden in 1697. He represented Woodstock in several parliaments, and was chosen Speaker of the House in 1698, and died 1st January 1709-10, without issue, when the title became extinct.<sup>1</sup> He married Anne, daughter of Benjamin Baron of Weston, co. Glouc., and by his will, dated 19th September 1709, gives to her all his estate at Weston or elsewhere in Gloucestershire which he had by the will of her deceased father, and ratifies £500 per annum provided by marriage settlement charged on North Okenden and North Okenden Hall, and a further annuity of £505 for 99 years and all his goods, adding, "This I do, thinking myself obliged thereunto for the best wife that ever man was blest with, and to testify the great love and value I have for her, which she more than deserves by her excellent carriage and behaviour," and makes her executrix, and after her decease, "my near kinsman,<sup>2</sup> Capt. James Littleton, Commander of H.M. ship 'The Somerset,' and his son Thomas Littleton, my godson, to be executors." All his manors, lands, &c. in London and Essex he demises to his wife and his friend Archibald Hutchinson of the Middle Temple, Esq., in trust to pay all bequests, &c., then to be conveyed to his aforesaid kinsman, Capt. James Littleton, for life, then to Thomas, son of the said James, for life, then to other sons, in default to the heirs of testator's grandfather Sir Adam Poyntz, on condition that every person possessing the freehold shall write the name of Poyntz between his christian and surname, as testator's grandfather, father and self had always done since the marriage of his grandmother Dame Audrey Poyntz, granddaughter and heir of Sir Gabriel Poyntz, Knt. Codicil dated 23rd September 1709. Proved by Dame Ann Littleton, relict, 21st January 1709-10, and again 4th November 1714 by James Littleton.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Courthope's "Synopsis of the Extinct Baronetage of England," edition 1835. Burke's "Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, &c.," edition 1845.

<sup>2</sup> Morant says he was the great nephew of the second Baronet ("Hist. of Essex," vol. i, p. 103), but this could hardly be, for, if legitimate, he would have been entitled to the baronetcy.

<sup>3</sup> P.C.C. (24 Smith).



The devisees, however, were not suffered to enjoy the lands in peace. A suit in Chancery was instituted on 14th June 1710 by a certain Elizabeth Meynell of Bradley in Derbyshire (widow of Godfrey Meynell of Bradley, co. Derby, who was Sheriff for that county in 1681) the sole daughter and heir of Edward Littleton, Esq., deceased, who was brother of Sir Thomas Poyntz, alias Littleton, Bart., deceased, father of the said devisor, and that, therefore, she is heir at law to the said devisor and doth claim all the manors, lands, &c., alleging moreover that Sir Thomas Poyntz, alias Littleton, did not make his last will, or that he was *non compos mentis* when it was made. What the decree in this case was we know not, but Littleton Poyntz Meynell, who was son of the said Elizabeth Meynell (who afterwards assumed the name of Poyntz), and administered to her effects in 1726, eventually became owner of North Okenden.<sup>1</sup>

Dame Ann Poyntz, alias Littleton, above mentioned made her will on 13th February, 1713, and directed that her body should be buried near that of her husband, in the Church of North Okenden. To Capt. James Poyntz, alias Littleton, she bequeathed all her household goods, pictures, &c. in her house of North Okenden, and all other pictures of any person of the name of Poyntz alias Littleton in her house in London or elsewhere, except such as are here afterwards bequeathed, and gave to him 42 silver plates. To Francis Haws, Esq., all her books and presses, and 100 guineas for a ring. To Archibald Hutchinson, of the Middle Temple, Esq., "mine and my late husbands Pictures in oval frames," drawn by Mr. Murry, and legacies to her kinswomen Elizabeth and Mary Prettyman, Ann and Elizabeth Eyres, each £50. Many other legacies and gifts to charitable and pious uses. Capt. James Poyntz alias Littleton and his son Thomas to allot a piece of ground for the erection of a school. Codicil dated 9th July, 1714. Gives all the pictures in her house in London to her sister Mary Baron for life, after her death to Capt. James Poyntz alias Littleton.<sup>2</sup>

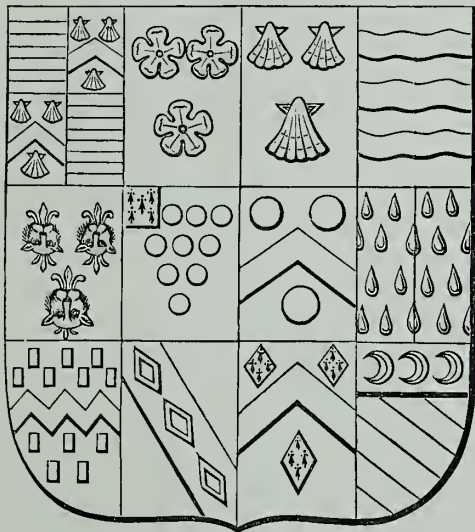
<sup>1</sup> Portrait of John Poyntz of North Ockenden, who married Anne Sibelles, is now (1884) in the possession of Adam Blandy, of 42, Inverness Terrace, Bayswater, Esq., as well as several other Poyntz Portraits, which have not been identified. They came to him through his grandfather, the son of Newdigate Poyntz of Tormarton.

<sup>2</sup> Prob. to Mary Baron, 11th Aug., 1714. P.C.C. (163 Aston).

## PEDIGREE OF POYNTZ OF NORTH OCKENDEN, ESSEX.

TABLE II.

The portions of this pedigree printed in *italics* are from the Herald's Visitation of Essex in 1612.



ARMS OF POYNTZ OF ESSEX.

1. POYNTZ. Barry of 8 Or and Gu.
2. BARDOLPH. Az. three cinquefoils Or.
3. MALET. Az. three escallops Or.
4. BASSET. Or three bars wavy Gu.
5. CANTILUPE. Gu. three leopards' heads inverted jessant de lis, Or.
6. ZOUCHE. Gu. ten bezants and a canton Erm.
7. BALDWIN. Az. a chev. Gu. betw. three ogresses.
8. SEPTFONTAIN. Per pale Or and Az. fourteen guttes d'eau.
9. ———. Ar. a fess dancetté betw. twelve billets Sa. seven in chief, five in base.
10. DEINCOURT. Ar. upon a bend Gu. three mascles of the first.
11. PERTH. Ar. a chev. Erm. betw. three lozenges Ermines.
12. CALVA. Bendy of six, Az. and Ar. on a chief Gu. three crescents of the second.

*Sir Nicholas Poyntz, Knt., Lord and Baron of Cory Malet, obiit 5 Edward II., 1311. Died seized of the Manor of Hoo in co. Kent.* = *Elizabeth, dau. to Edmond [Eudo] la Zouch, first wyfe.*

*Sir Hugh Poyntz, Knt., Lord and Baron of Cory Malet, obiit 2 Edw. III., 1336. Lord or joint Lord of Hoo, co. Kent, of which, by licence dated 21 July, 7 Ed. III, he alienated a moiety to Nicholas Poyntz and Alianora his wife.*

*Nicholas Poyntz of Hoo in Com. Kente, 2<sup>d</sup> sonne, A<sup>o</sup> d'ni 1311, 5 Edw. II. received from his brother, Sir Hugh Poyntz, a moiety of the Manor of Hoo. Inq. ad quod damnum, 21 July 7 Edw. III. Esch. 7 Edw. III. (2 nos.) No. 48.*

*Nicholas Poyntz of North Okenden in Com. Essex, Esq., sonne and heir, lived 47 Edw. III., ob. 1372.*

*Ponties Poyntz of North Okenden in Com. Essex, Esq., sonne and heir 16 Rich. II. Presented to the Church of North Okenden in 1393.*

*Ellenor, dau. to ... She lived 16 Rich. II., A<sup>o</sup> 1392. [Dau. of ... Baldwin of North Okenden, Essex.]*

*Edwardc ... dau. to ... Poyntz, Esq., 2 sonne.*

*Maude, mar. to Thomas Barret of Belhouse, Esquire. In the Barret pedigree she is stated to have been the daughter of Edward Poyntz.*

A

A

*Sir John Poyntz, Knt., living in 1351, of North Okenden in Essex, sonne and heire. Died 1447. Will dated 12 March 1446-7.* — *Maude, dau. to [Eleanor, dau. to Sir John Daucote, Knt. (? Deincourt of Upminster, co. Essex.)]*

*John Poyntz of North Okenden, son and heir. Named in his father's will. His will dated 15 April 1469. Describes himself as John Poyntes of North Wokendon, Esquier. To be buried at North Okenden. Presented to the Church there 1448 and 1463.* — *Matilda, dau. and coh. of William Perth of Aveley, co. Essex.* — *Reginald, named in father's will.* — *Thomas, named in father's will.* — *Matilda, wife of John Barret of Aveley, Esq. Named in father's will.* — *Margaret, wife of John Bynges, [? John Bures] named in Mon<sup>e</sup> in North Okenden Ch.* — *Agnes, named in father's will.*

*Thomas Poyntz, 2 son named in father's will.* — *Thomazine, named in her father's will.* — *William Poyntz of North Okenden in Com. Essex, Esq., sonne and heire. Jointly with Edm. Shaa presented to North Okenden Church 1480, and solely in 1487. Died 1504. M.I.* — *Elizabeth, sister to Sr. Edmund Shave of London, Shrive 15 Edw. IV., 1474, and Maior 23 of y<sup>e</sup> saide K's Raynge A<sup>o</sup> 1483. She was dau. of Sir Edm. Shaa and sister of Sir John Shaa, Lord Mayor of London 1502. In his will he names his brother Poyntz. She died 21 August 1503.* — *Catherine, named in father's will.* — *Anne, named in father's will.* — *Beatrice, not named in father's will. Mar. John Check of Debenham. Mon<sup>t</sup>.*

*Ann, da. and coh. of Isaac Sibelles (she was a widow) of co. Bucks. Had issue by first husband. Presented to North Okenden Church 26 Ap. 1554. Will dated 16, Prob. 18 May 1554.* — *John Poyntz, son and heir, of North Okenden, Sewer of the Chamber to Q. Katharine of Arragon 1520. Died 13 June 1547, s.p. Will dated 30 of preceding month, Prob. 30 June following (39 Alen). Bur. at North Okenden, s.p. M.I.* — *Henry.* — *... dau., mar. .... Sponer, mentioned in bro. John's will.* — *Margaret, mar. .... Barleymay, named in bro. John's will.*

*Thomas Poyntz of North Okenden, sonne & heire [heir of his brother] named in bro. John's will. Died 5 May 1562 at St. Dunstan's in the West, Lond., intestate. Admo. to son Gabriel.* — *Ann, dau. & heir to [John] Calva, a German.* — *Edmund Poyntz.* — *Frideswide, dau. of ...* — *Frideswide, named in uncle John's will.*

*Ferdinando Poyntz, of London, 2 sonne, named in uncle John's will. Admo. to relict Elizabeth 12 May 1586 and on 17 July on goods she had not administered to, to Sir Samuel Saltingstall, nephew from sister.* — *Elizabeth, da. of Samuel Johnson of co. Flint. Admo. to husband's effects.* — *Sir Gabrell Poyntz of North Okenden in com. Essex, sonne and heire, named in uncle John's will and in Aunt Ann's, knighted at Whitehall 30 May 1604. Died 8 Feb. 1607-8. M.I. Will dated 23 July 1606, Prob. 21 Jan. 1607-8 (3 Windebank).* — *Audrey, daugh. to Peter Cutts and widow to Rauffe Latham. Died 2 Decr. 1594. M.I.* — *Robard, 3d sonne, named in uncle John's will, and on father's monument.* — *Susanna, mar. to Sir Richard Saltingstall of London, Knight, Lord Mayor of London 1598. He died 17 March 1601, aged 84. Will dated 1579, Prob. 9 May 1601. She died 1613. Will dated 16 Nov. 1612. Prob. 23 Feb. 1712-3, bur. at South Okenden. M.I.*

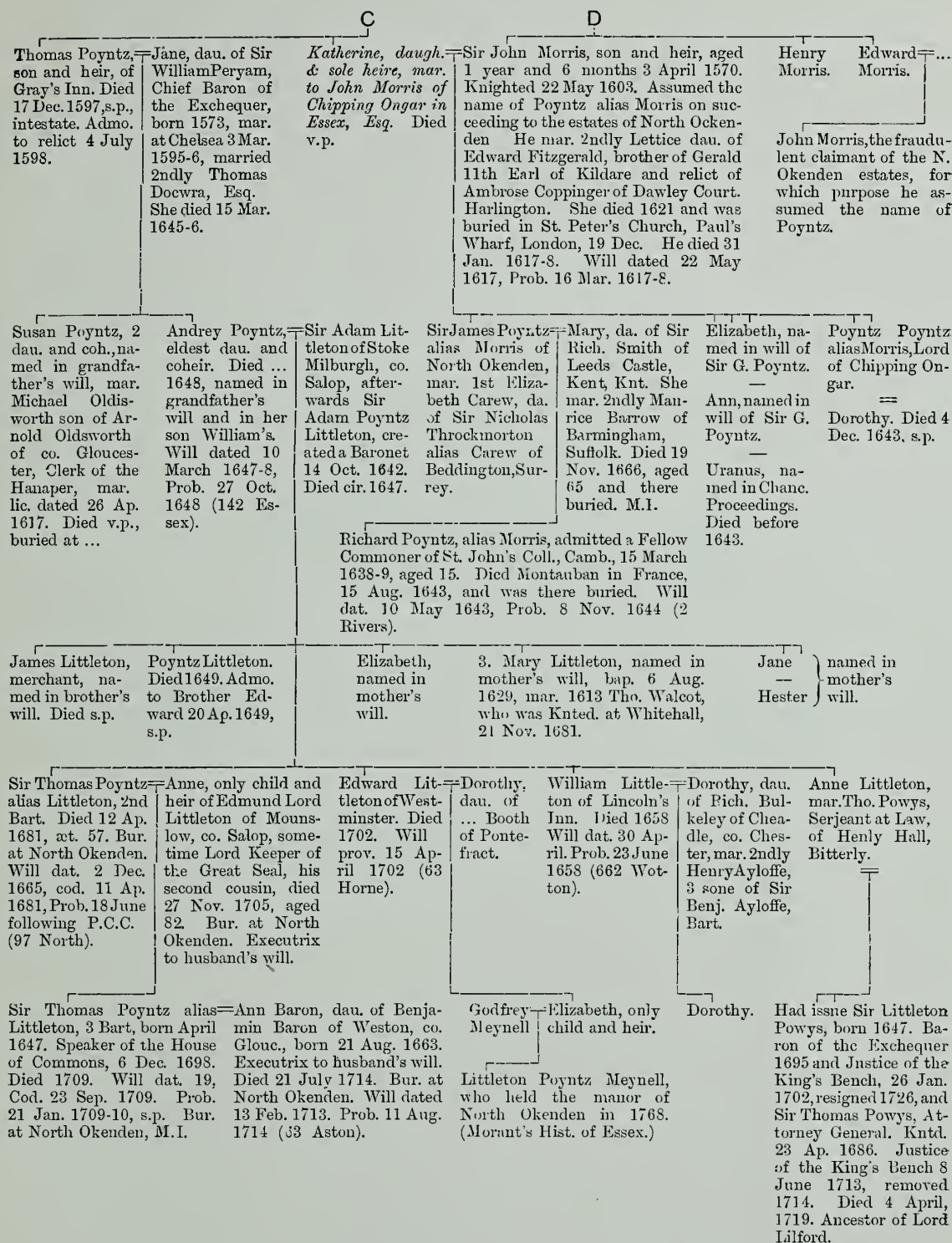
*Sarah, 1 wife of Clement Harbie of London. Bur. at Hillingdon, Middx., 1606. M.I.*

*James Morris of Chipping Ongar, co. Essex, Attorney of the Court of Wards and Liveries, temp. Eliz.* — *Elizabeth, da. of George Medley. Died 20 Sept. 1603.*

C

D





John Littleton of Longueville, = Susan Medicott, widow of ...  
co. Surrey. White, Attorney at Law.

James Littleton of North Okenden, a Vice = Jane, only  
Admiral in the Navy, to whom the N. Okenden dau. of  
Estates were devised by Sir Thomas Poyntz alias Richard  
Littleton. Was M.P. for Woodstock, Chichester, Bunce,  
and Portsmouth. Died 5 Feb. 1722-3. Bur. at M.D.  
North Okenden. Will dated 3 March 1716-7. Cod.  
5 Feb., and Prob. 19 Feb. 1722-3. (32 Richmond.)

Thomas Littleton of  
North Okenden. Died  
unmarried. Admo. to  
sister, Lady Susan  
Rider, 21 Feb. 1724-5.

Susan Littleton, na- =  
med in father's will. Admo. to her brother's effects, 21 Feb. 1724-5.

Sir Barnham Rider  
of Boughton Mon-  
chensey, co. Kent.  
Kntd. 20 Oct. 1714.  
Died 20 Nov. 1728.

Jane Littleton, mar.  
at the Fleet, 24 June  
1772, William Kings-  
ley of Maidston, Esq.

Sir Thomas Rider of Boughton  
Minchelsey, Kent. Kntd. 13 or  
21 Mar. 1743-4. Died 16 Dec.  
1785.

## CHAPTER III.

## POYNTZ OF IRON ACTON.

We have seen, ante p. 19, that Nicholas Poyntz, the second Baron, married to his second wife Matilda the heir of Sir John Acton of Iron Acton.

An Inquisition was taken at Irene Acton 18th November 1312, after the death of John de Acton, when it was found that he held on the day on which he died the manor of Irene Acton of Roger de la Warre in capite by the service of one knight's fee. As this manor for several centuries formed the chief residence of the Poyntz family, it will be of interest to give the extent of it at this date. The jurors say that there are there one capital messuage with garden and two dovecotes, whose value per annum is 6s. 8d.; six score acres of arable land of the value per annum 30s., price per acre 3d; forty acres of meadow for mowing, which is of the value per annum 60s., price per acre 18d.; twelve acres of pasture, whose value per annum is 6s., price per acre 6d. They say there is a certain park of which there is no profit because there is no underwood or herbage beyond the sustentation of the game. They say also there are two water mills, whose value per annum is 20s.; that there are six free tenants who hold divers tenements and pay per annum rent of assize 25s., and ten natives who each hold one messuage and half a virgate of land and pay per annum 3s. rent of assize, and work (Regula Augusti) from 1st August until the feast of St. Michael every week by four days manual work of one man, and the value of each 1d., and the value of the ten men per annum 26s. 8d., sum total of rent and work 56s. 8d.; six natives who each hold one messuage and the sixth part of one virgate of land, and render per annum 3d. for all services, sum. 18s.; three natives who each hold one messuage and the third part of one virgate of land and render per annum 4s. for all services, sum. 12s.; eight cottars who each hold one cottage and one courtlage and render per annum 12d., sum. 8s.; and they say that the pleas and perquisites of the courts there are of the value per annum of half a mark. Sum of the whole manor aforesaid £12 19s. 0d. The jurors say that the said John held also at Frampton Cotel one mill and four score acres of land of Alan Plokenet in capite at the



rent of 9d., the total value of which per annum was 35s. And they say further that John son of the said John de Actone is his nearest heir and is aged 24 years.<sup>1</sup>

It is believed that this last named John died s.p. cir. 20th Edw. III, and that Matilda, who married Sir Nicholas Poyntz, was his niece and heir, conjointly with whom she held the manor of Lollynggeston in co. Kent, acquired of Reymond Heryng by fine in the court of the King to hold to him and the heirs of his body of the Archbishop of Canterbury.<sup>2</sup> The heir of this marriage was Sir John Poyntz of Iron Acton, who was Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1363 and married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Philip de Clanvowe, cousin and heir of Sir Thomas Clanvowe, and heir also through his mother of the ancient Bailiff in fee of the land of Glandestre appurtenant to the manor of Radnore. It appears from an Inquisition taken at Weobley on Thursday next before the feast of St. Barnabas 1339, that in respect to this office the Bailiffs received every year as their inheritance of the Lords of Radnore seven ells of cloth, each ell worth five marks. And the jurors say that the said Philip Clanvowe had received the said seven ells in the time of Margaret de Mortuo Mari of the said Margaret, also that Philip ap Howell, uncle of the said Philip whose heir he is, received the said seven ells in the time of Edmund de Mortuo Mari of the aforesaid Edmund and of Matilda de Mortuo Mari, his mother, in the time of the said Matilda. And they say that Howell ap Meurik, father of the said Philip ap Howell and grandfather of the said Philip de Clanvowe, whose heir he is, received the said seven ells in the time of the aforesaid Matilda. And they say that Meuric, father of the said Howell received the said seven ells in the time of William de Breosa of the said William, so that the said Philip de Clanvowe and his ancestors had received the seven ells of the manor of Radnore by reason of the said Bailiffry as of their inheritance from a time beyond memory.<sup>3</sup>

In 1343 John de Acton, Chr., obtained a licence to grant the manors of Iron Acton, Elkston and Wynston to Sir John Poyns, Chr., and Elizabeth his wife to hold to them and the heirs of the body of the said John Poyns by the services due and accustomed, in default of such issue remainder after the death of the said Elizabeth to the said John de Acton and his heirs, to be held of the King in capite by the service of half a knight's fee and is worth 20 marks yearly, and the jurors say that the said John de Acton has also the manor of Acton, which is worth yearly £20, and it is held of Hugh Daudele, Earl of

<sup>1</sup> Inq. p.m. 6th Edw. II, No. 55.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. p.m. 5th Edward II, No. 62.

<sup>3</sup> Esch. 13th Edw. III (2nd Nos.), No. 69.

Gloucester, by the service of half a knight's fee.<sup>1</sup> Between 26th July and the 1st September 1369 a certain Hugh de Pencoyt was instituted to the church of Iron Acton upon the presentation of this Sir John Poyns.<sup>2</sup>

It appears from an Inquisition taken at Gloucester on Saturday after the feast of the Ascension, 1st Richard II (1378), that John Poyntz, Chr., deceased, died on the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, 50th Edw. II (1376), and not on the feast of St. Matthew, 49th of the same king, as would seem to have been previously stated, and they the jurors say *inter alia* that certain rents of assize amounting to £24 8s. 8d. &c. arose out of the manor of Iron Acton, which manor the said John held in fee as of his demesne on the day on which he died of Hugh Earl of Stafford by military service, and they say that Robert, son of the said John Poyntz, is his nearest heir and was aged 18 years on the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle last past (11th June 1377).<sup>3</sup> This John Poyntz would appear to have died more or less involved, for a further inquisition was made concerning his personal estate at Newporte near Berkeley on the feast of St. Katherine the Virgin 1382. The jurors say there is a certain wood in the manor of Iron Acton which is called Le Parke, in which is great timber which was formerly valued at half a mark per annum besides the enclosure thereof, and to this inquisition is attached an extent and value of all the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of John Poyntz, Knt., which he had in the county of Gloucester on the 8th June, 49th Edw. III, taken before William Walworth, Mayor of the stapul at Westminster for the recognizance of debts in the same stapul, in which he acknowledged that he owed John Petcher, Citizen and Alderman of London, now deceased, £40, which he was to pay on the feast of All Saints following and which he has not paid, as is said in the suit made at Newent 21st October, 6th Richard II. The jurors say that John Poyntz, Knt., had the aforesaid 8th June the manor of Iron Acton, which is of the value per annum in rents of assize £30, and that in the said manor there are 480 acres of arable land worth per annum £8, price per acre 4d.; 100 acres of meadow, value per annum £10, price per acre 2s.; 40 acres of pasture, value per annum 40s., price per acre 12d.; and they say there are no woods pertaining to the same manor except the wood called le Parke, in which is great timber which there are no means to sell except as waste (fire wood) and they say that no more pertains to the said manor, and that John Poyntz is dead and had no other goods or chattels, lands or tenements except the manor aforesaid, which cannot be priced or appraised at present but enquiry may be made.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Esch. 17th Edw. III (2 Nos.), No. 60

<sup>2</sup> Worc., Bishop Lynne's Register fo. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. p.m. 1 Rich. II, No. 29.

<sup>4</sup> Escheats, 6th Rich. II; No. 111.

The wardship of Robert son and heir of John Poyntz was in 1376<sup>1</sup> granted to John Cousin. By an Inquisition as to the age of Robert son and heir of Sir John Poyntz, taken at Ross, co. Hereford, on 8th March 1380-1 the jurors found that the said Robert was born at Denchurch in Irchenfeld in the said county, and was baptized in the church of the same ville on Saturday in the vigil of the Trinity 33rd Edward III<sup>2</sup> (1359), he consequently attained full age on 23rd May 1380, and thereupon did homage and obtained livery of seizin of his lands. In the same year he had licence to grant the manor of Elkstone and certain lands in Winston to the said John Cousin and Joan his wife to farm. He was sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1397 and was probably the builder of the ancient stone cross in the churchyard at Iron Acton, supposed to be a preaching cross, having an entrance into it on the south side (see Plate II). On the 9th September 1400 he presented John Prentes to the church of Iron Acton,<sup>3</sup> and on 13th May, 1420 Robert Banak to the same church.<sup>4</sup> He was twice married. His first wife was called Ann, but of what family she was we have no knowledge. He married secondly Katherine, daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Fitz-Nichol of Hull and Nympsfield, who was the 8th in descent from Robert 1st Lord Berkeley, who granted to his son Nicholas for his portion the manors of Hull or Hill, and Nympsfield, which grant was afterwards confirmed by King Henry II. In 12th Henry IV Sir Thomas Fitz-Nichol<sup>5</sup> entailed his manor of Hull al's Hill, where he mostly lived (seldom at Nympsfield) to himself and Agnes his wife and to the heirs male of his body, remainder to Robert Poyntz and Katherine his wife, daughter of the said Thomas, for their lives, remainder to Nicholas Poyntz, son of the said Robert and Katherine, and the heirs males of his body, remainder to Thomas Poyntz his brother and the heirs males of his body, remainder to Maurice Poyntz his other brother and to the heirs males of his body, remainder to Blanch, Isabell, and Joan, sisters of the said Maurice and to the several heirs males of their bodies, remainder to the right heirs of the said Sir Thomas Fitz-Nicholl for ever.<sup>6</sup> This Sir Thomas Fitz-Nicholl six years afterwards died in 1418 without issue male, leaving the said Katherine wife of Robert Poyntz, and Eleanor wife of John Browninge, his two daughters his heirs,<sup>7</sup> between whom

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Fin., 50th Edw. III.

<sup>2</sup> Esch., 4th Rich. II, No. 132.

<sup>3</sup> Wore. Bp. Tideman de Winchecomb's Reg., fo. 52.

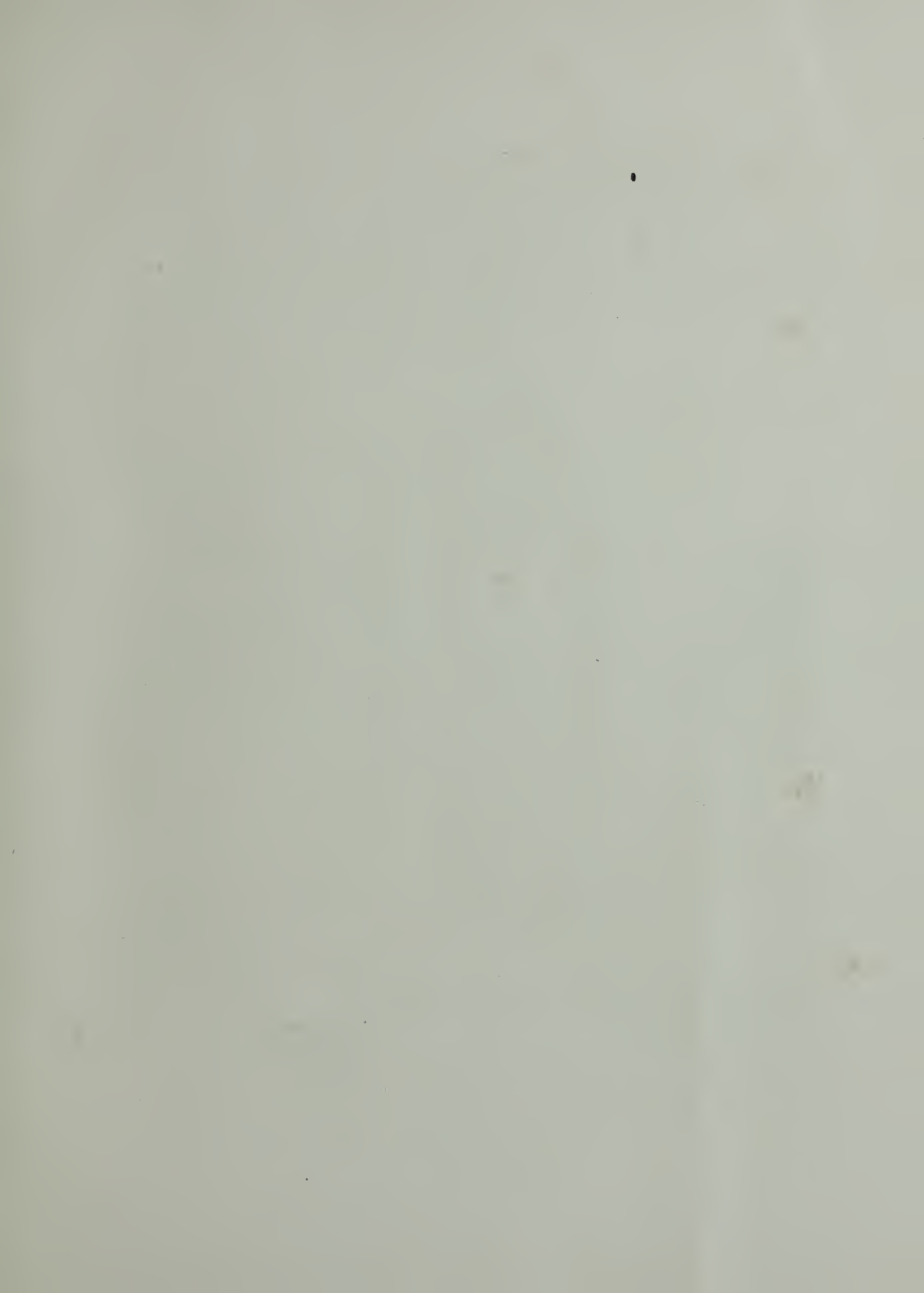
<sup>4</sup> Wore. Bp. Philip de Morgan's Reg., fo. 11.

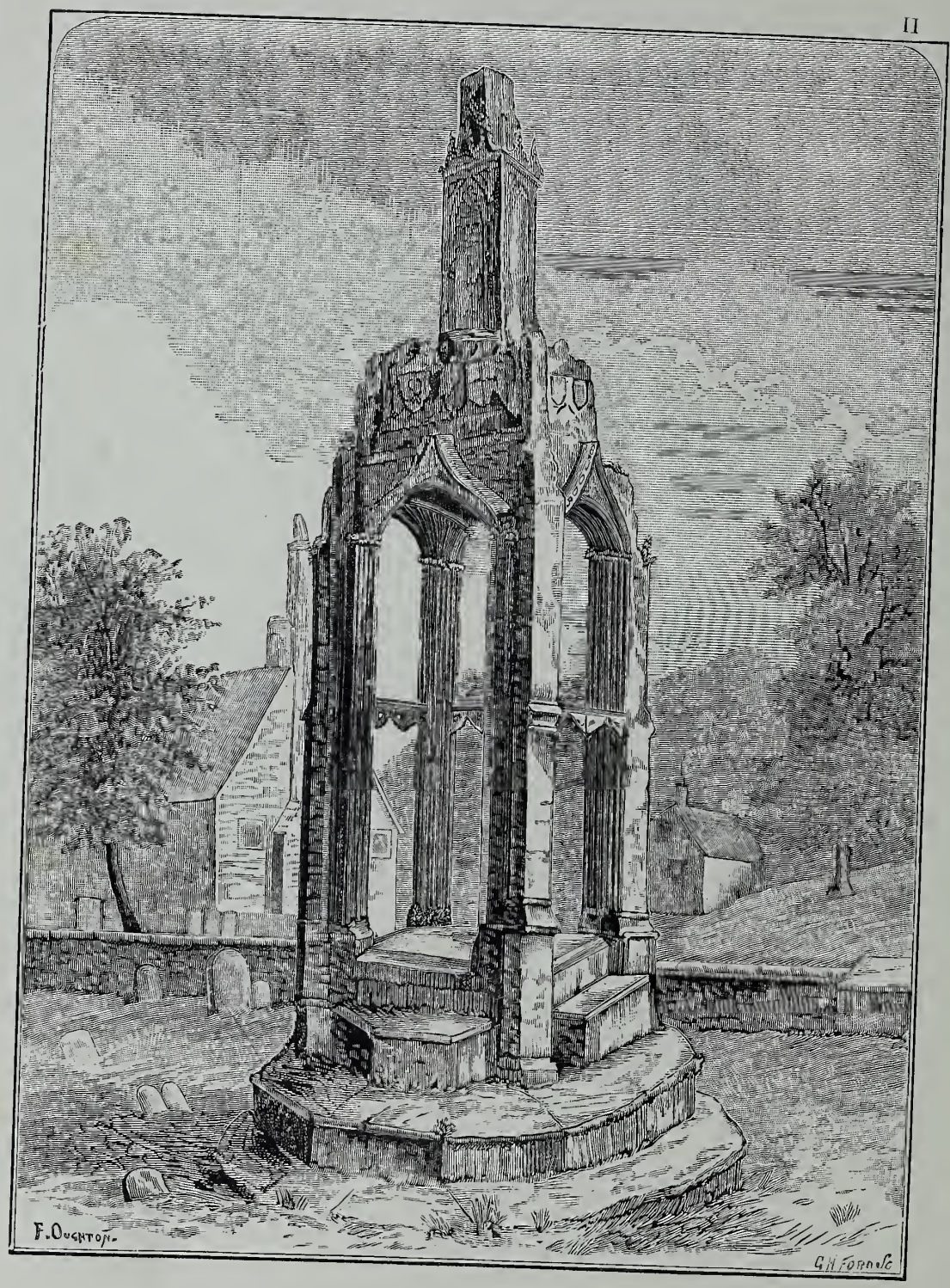
<sup>5</sup> Berkeley MSS., *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. i, p. 45.

<sup>6</sup> Inq. p.m. 5th Hen. V, No. 44.

<sup>7</sup> It appears from the Inq. p.m. of Thomas Fitz Nicholl taken at Gloucester on Saturday next after the feast of the Conception B.V.M., 6th Hen. VI, that the Charter referred to in the text was dated 21st April, 13th Hen. IV, and that at the time of taking the Inquisition Katherine wife of Robert Poyntz was aged 40 years, and her sister Alianor, wife of John Browning, was aged 20 years.







F. OUCHTON.

G. H. FORBES.



he left his other manor of Nympsfield with the chantry of Kinly within the same, in coparcenary.<sup>1</sup> Robert Poyntz died in 1439 and was buried at Iron Acton.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Berkeley MSS. Smyth's *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. i, p. 48.

<sup>2</sup> The handsome cross was figured by Lysons in his *Gloucestershire Antiquities* (Plate II. fig. 2), from which the etching of our illustration was made. It is likewise figured by Pooley in his *Old Crosses of Gloucestershire*, in which it is also described. This curious and beautiful monument stands on a base of three octagonal steps. The structure itself is square in plan, and for purposes of description may be divided into two stages.

The lower stage is formed by four clustered shafts upon octagonal bases, supported by light buttresses of two stages at the angles and an octagonal shaft in the centre, the base and capital of which still remain. From this sprung elaborate fan-tracery enriched with sculptured bosses, some of which represent oak leaves and acorns. The four side openings have plain elliptical arches surmounted by ogee crocketed pediments, the spandril spaces between which and the crowns of the arches are also filled with oak leaf and acorn decorations. The finials with which the pediments terminated are now all knocked off except one. Three of these arched openings are divided by transoms, the lower compartments being subdivided into pairs by mullions, each being finished with ogee cinquefoil arches. The southern is left open. The four angle buttresses originally terminated with pinnacles which have been destroyed.

The upper stage is formed by a square base, resting on the crown of the vault below, on each face of which are two shields, each being held by an angel whose long wings droop down on each side. This base supports a foursided shaft with shallow cinquefoiled panels, or niches, each crowned by a beautiful three-arched trefoiled canopy having projecting brackets at the bottom which originally supported a figure, all now lost. Above this was the shaft which bore the cross. The original height of the entire monument was probably about 30 feet. Four of the shields abovementioned are charged with the emblems of the Passion of Our Lord, two are blank, and the other two are armorial, viz.: one on the south side bearing the arms of ACTON: Quarterly, per fess dancetté Ar. and Az.; and the other, on the north side, ACTON impaling FITZ NICHOL: Quarterly Gu. and Or, a bend Az. This last shield shews that the builder of the cross was Robert Poyntz who married the coheir of Fitz Nichol, and died in 1439. It is remarkable that his own paternal arms nowhere occur. He set himself entirely aside while doing honour to his grandmother, Maude de Acton, from whom he derived the estate, for not only does he use the arms of Acton as his own, but the whole of the ornamentation of the monument consists of oak leaves and acorns in allusion to the Acton family.

The monument is greatly mutilated, but some portions have been carefully and judiciously restored by the Rector, the Rev. H. L. Thompson.

In Iron Acton Church, on the north side of the chancel, are two sculptured effigies representing a gentleman and his wife, traditionally supposed to be members of the Poyntz family. The stone being soft sandstone the figures are very much defaced, so that it is difficult to affix the date even approximately from the armour of the man or dress of the woman. These effigies were formerly in the south Chapel adjoining, which was the burial place of the Poyntzes. Near these effigies are two incised grave-stones, also of sandstone, representing a man and a woman. The costume is of the early part of the fifteenth century. The man wears a camail of mail, but in other respects his armour is entirely of plate. There is no appearance of an haubergeon of mail or even of a fringe of rings. To the breast plate are attached five traces, to which a small baguette



His *Writ diem clausit extremum* was issued on 24th June in that

is appended, roundels protect the armpits and fan-shaped elbow-plates the arms. His feet rest upon a greyhound. He wears a bascinet upon his head and has a forked beard, but he has no spurs or any offensive weapon. Around the margin of the stone is the following legend :

"Here lyth Roberd Poyntz, Lord of Etonacton, and this steppyl here maked who  
deyde the fiftene day of June the year of oure Lord mccccxx[xix] of whos soule  
God haue mercy Amen."

The other stone is precisely similar in character. The lady wears a gown somewhat low at the neck and laced up the front, and a reticulated head dress. Around the margin is the following legend :

✠ Here lyth Anne the firste wyfe of Roberd Poyntz of whos soule : God haue mercy : Amen.

We have taken this descripton from Lysons' "Gloucestershire Antiquities" in which the incised slabs are figured. He considered the effigies and inscriptions to represent the same persons, but that would appear to be doubtful.

Lysons says that on the other side of the tomb of Robert Poyntz is that of his second wife, Katherine daughter and coheir of Thomas Fitz Nichols. It is now almost effaced. Another inscription having been two centuries afterwards cut on the same stone as a memorial of Elizabeth (Walsh), wife of Robert Poyntz, who died in 1631. Part of the figure still remains, with the words round the margin . . . . crine the seconde wyfe of Robert Poyntz.

Against the south wall of the south chapel is an altar tomb with a canopy of beautifully executed tracery, but no inscription. On it are three shields with supporters. Two of them are blank, and the third only contains some indications of the arms of Acton. On grave stones in the floor near are the following inscriptions.

Below the arms of Poyntz differenced with a mullet—

HIC JACET CORPVS HVGONIS POYNTZ, ARMIGERI,  
VNIVS FILIOR' NICHOLAI POYNTZ, EQVITIS AVRATI,  
QVI IN IPSO JVENTVTIS FLORE AB OMNIBVS  
VNICE DESIDERATVS DIEM CLAVSIT EXTREMVM  
VNDECIMO DIE MARTII, ANNO DOMINI JVXTA  
VSITATEM ECCLESIE ANGLICANA COMPTATIONEM  
1604. ÆTATIS SUE 26  
CVIVS ANIMA IN ÆTERNA PACE REQVIESCAT.

HIC JACET CORPVS FLORENTI[E]  
YXORIS EDWARDI POYNTZ AR  
MIGERI QVE OBIT DECIMO  
QVINTO DIE MENSIS MART.  
ANNO DOMINI IVXTA COMPT  
TATIONEM ANGLICANAM  
MILLESSIMO QVINGENTESIMO  
NONAGESIMO OCTAVO  
CVIVS ANIMA IN PACE  
ÆTERNA REQVIESCAT.

The Rev. H. L. Thompson, Rector of Iron Acton, wrote of this latter monument in 1879.—"About

year,<sup>1</sup> and in the same year John Selwyn chaplain was admitted to the church of that parish upon the presentation of Katherine, relict of the said Robert.<sup>2</sup> He left issue as stated above. Of Nicholas, his son and heir, we shall speak presently. Maurice, the second son was a matricide. 1465 *Mauricius Poyntz cæsæ matris crimine reus fuit in quam Ricardus comes Ripariis Constabularius Angliæ capitalem sententiam tulit.* Thomas was of Frampton Cotterel, he married and had issue. For further particulars of the children of Sir Robert Poyntz we must refer to the tabular pedigree, post.

Sir Nicholas Poyntz, son and heir of Sir Robert, succeeded his father in his estates. We do not know of any special circumstances in his career which require notice. He appears to have lived a quiet life in troublous times. In 1431 he was knight for the shire of Gloucester. He was twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth daughter of Sir Edward Mill of Harescombe, by whom he had issue John his son and heir, who was aged 16 on his father's death. His son Humphry must also have been born of this marriage, or he would have been named in the settlement of 1450, presently to be abstracted, in which Sir Nicholas Poyntz made provision for his children by his second marriage. We have just seen ante p. 54 that Robert Poyntz, grandfather of Humphry, immediately upon obtaining seizin of his lands in 1380 obtained a licence to grant to John Cousin, to whom he had been in ward, and Joan his wife, the manor of Elkeston, etc. to farm. It is presumed that the term of years for which this grant was made had long since expired, and that the lands had again reverted to the said Robert Poyntz or Nicholas his son father of Humphry, who had enfeoffed a certain John Orchard and William Coffyn, probably in trust, for it appears in the Inquisition taken at Winchcombe on 29th October 1487, upon the death of Humphry Poyntz, that the said John Orchard and William Coffyn being seized

150 years ago it had been made to serve as a grave-stone for a Mrs. Richmond, mother-in-law of the Rev. Thomas Shute, then Rector of the parish. She died in the 101st year of her age, and her son-in-law, anxious to shew respect for his venerable relative without incurring undue expense, appropriated the Poyntz slab, turned down the ancient inscription with its face to the soil, and placed an inscription to his mother-in-law on the reverse side. The deed was discovered a few months ago, during the restoration of the church; and I regret to say that more than one slab had been treated in the same way by our predecessors of the 18th century."—(Trans. Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæol. Soc., vol. iv, p. 83.)

This Edward Poyntz was second son of Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Iron Acton, (ob. 1586) eldest child by his second wife, Margaret Stanley, dau. of Edward, 3rd Earl of Derby. His wife Florence was the daughter of John Jones of Tre-Owen, co. Monmouth.

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Fin. 17th Hen. VI, m. 24.

<sup>2</sup> Worc., Bp. Bourchier's Reg., fo. 65.

of the said manor of Elkeston in their own right as of fee by deed dated 4th May, 13th Edward IV. (1473), had demised the said manor to Humphry Poyntz and his heirs male, in default remainder to [the heirs of] Nicholas Poyntz, father of the said Humphry. In virtue of which the jurors say the said Humphry was seized, and died seized on the 10th October, 3rd Henry VII. (1487) and the jurors say Nicholas Poyntz is his son and nearest heir and is aged 21 years and more.

On 20th October 1466 Humphry Poyntz and others gave 13s. 4d. to have a writ of convention.<sup>1</sup> This was probably to enable him to levy the fine by which he granted to Maurice Denys and Alice his wife, and Walter Denys, son and heir apparent of the said Maurice, the manor of Alweston and Erthcote and Hundred of Langley and Alweston.<sup>2</sup> Humphry Poyntz married ... Pollard.

Sir Nicholas Poyntz married secondly Elizabeth daughter of Sir Henry Hussey of Hastings, Sussex, a knight who was present at the famous battle of Agincourt, by whom he had several children. By his charter dated 17th Sept. 29th Henry VI (1450) he conveyed to Sir Maurice Berkeley of Beverston, Knt., Maurice Denys, Esq., and others, for certain uses to be afterwards declared, the manor of Brokenburgh with appurtenances in Almondesbury, Tokynton, Hempton, Petyshawe Overwoodland and Winterbourne; also the manor of Daggelynworth, with appurtenances in Daggelynworth and Cirencester, and the the advowson of the chantry of the Blessed Mary of Almondesbury with appurtenances. And afterwards the said Nicholas declared the said conveyance to be to the following uses, viz., to the use of the said Nicholas and Elizabeth his wife for their lives, and the longest liver of them, the manor of Brokenbury with its appurtenances and also the advowson of the chantry, remainder to Maurice Poyntz our son and the heirs male of his body, in default remainder to Thomas Poyntz our son and the heirs male of his body, in default remainder to Nicholas Poyntz our son and the heirs male of his body, in default to Maurice Denys, son of the aforesaid Maurice Denys, Esq., and Alice our daughter, and the heirs male of the said Maurice, in default remainder to Johanna our youngest daughter, and the heirs of her body, in default remainder to Alice wife of the aforesaid Maurice Denys, our eldest daughter and the heirs of her body, in default remainder to Margaret wife of John Lisle, Esq., our middle daughter and the heirs of her body, in default remainder to the right heirs of the said Nicholas. And as regards the manor of Daggelynworth, to the use of the said Nicholas and Elizabeth for their lives and the longer liver of them, remainder to Nicholas our son and the heirs

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Fin., 6th Edward IV.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Claus., 6th Edw. IV.



male of his body, in default remainder to Thomas our son and the heirs male of his body, in default remainder to Maurice our son and the heirs male of his body, in default remainder to Henry our son and the heirs male of his body, in default remainder to Maurice Denys son of the aforesaid Maurice Denys, Esq., and Alice our daughter and the heirs male of the said Maurice Denys the son, in default remainder to Johanna our youngest daughter and the heirs of her body, in default remainder to the aforesaid Alice our eldest daughter and the heirs of her body, in default remainder to Margaret wife of John Lisle, Esq., our middle daughter and the heirs of her body, and in default of such issue remainder to the right heirs of me the said Nicholas for ever.<sup>1</sup> This would seem to be the provision he made, at least in part, for the issue of his second marriage.

Henry Poyntz, under the name of Poyntz Fitz Nicholas Poyntz, has been supposed to have been the founder of the family of Poyntz of North Okenden in Essex by marriage with the daughter of ... Baudwin, but we have failed to discover any evidence in support of the statement. On the contrary, we think we have found a wife for him elsewhere. On 5th March 1458 William Canterbury of Bristol granted to Nicholas Poyntz of Acton, Esq., Philip Mede and Thomas Rogers four houses in Redcliffe Street and other houses in Bristol, and on the 10th of the same month the parties of the second to this deed conveyed the same to William Canterbury, Esq., and his wife Alicia to hold to them and the heirs of the said William, born of the said Alicia. These deeds contain a settlement on the marriage of the said William Canterbury and Alice. By a deed dated 26th December 1459 and a quit claim two days afterwards, William Canterbury and Alice his wife convey the said premises to certain feoffees. William Canterbury died immediately afterwards, and by his will, dated 4th January 1459-60,<sup>2</sup> demised certain of the aforesaid premises to the aforesaid feoffees, subject to a sufficient provision being made from them for Alice his wife, and certain other of the houses he demises to her absolutely in fee. On 20th Decr. 1478 the surviving feoffees grant the premises held by them to Henry Poyntz, Esq. and Alice his wife, relict of William Canterbury.<sup>3</sup> There are other deeds between the said parties, which it is unnecessary to cite here.

The fact that a Nicholas Poyntz of Acton being concerned in the transaction would imply an intimacy, if not some connection, between the families, and we do not know of any Henry Poyntz except Henry the son of Nicholas, who was probably young in 1456, that could become the husband of Alice Carpenter.

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Claus. 34th Henry VI, m. 9<sup>d</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Deed in the Parish Chest of St. Thomas, Bristol.

<sup>3</sup> Prob. 3rd March, 1459-60, Bristol Wills, p. 139.

A Peter Poynes of Westbury on Trym, near Bristol, made his will 6th January 1574. He does not mention any children and constitutes his wife Margery executrix.<sup>1</sup> Margery Poynes did not long survive her husband. She made her will 12th Jan. 1574. She does not mention any children, but she names her brother Richard Parsons, whom she appoints joint executor with Humphry Farrington.<sup>2</sup>

It is possible that Peter Poynes was descended from the above mentioned Henry and Alice his wife, but we have nothing in support of the conjecture.

James, first Lord Berkeley, during his whole life was involved in heavy suits of law and other perplexities. Smyth says, "the power and malice of his adversaries kept him for the most part within doors like a prisoner from youth to age."<sup>3</sup> In the year 1449, when the legal struggle with the powerful coheirs of his late cousin Thomas, fourth Lord Berkeley, was at its height, his necessities were so great that Smyth says "he borrowed twenty-two marks of Mr. Nicholas Poyntz whereof to repay twelve marks on Midsummer day following, for assurance whereof he pawned to him one guilt masse book, a chalice of silver weighing eighteen ounces, a chesipull with stolys and fanons of red sattin, three aubes, three amices, one white autercloth with crosses of black silk therein with one valence fringed sewed thereto of red cloth of gold, one cloth of red palle to hang afore an aulter of the same, another cloth of the same for a reredote, and two ridles<sup>4</sup> of red tartryn."<sup>5</sup>

The exact date of the death of Nicholas Poyntz is uncertain. He would seem to have died very soon after he made the charter above abstracted, for in the following year his son John Poyntz, Esq., confirmed to Thomas Poyntz and the heirs of his body a moiety of the manor of Nympsfield with appurtenances in co. Gloucester which the said Thomas held of him, to hold to the said Thomas and the heirs of his body of the Abbot of Westminster and his successors for ever. Maurice Berkeley of Beverston, Kt., John Botiller, Edmund Blount, Esquire, and others were witnesses.<sup>6</sup> In 1477-8 John Poyntz ratified to Thomas Poyntz an estate and possession of a moiety of the manor of Nympsfield.<sup>7</sup>

In the Inquisition taken upon the death of Humphry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, on 11th September 1460, among the many knights' fees which he held it was found that in the Honour of Gloucester he had six knights' fees in Tokynton and Swell, which were held of him by the heirs of Nicholas Poyntz. And at the same time it was found that Robert de Poyntz held one fee of him in Iren Acton.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Probate 11th January 1574 Bristol Probate Court.

<sup>3</sup> Berkeley MSS., Smyth's *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. ii, 96.

<sup>5</sup> Berkeley MSS., Smyth's *Lives of the Berkeleys*, fo. 519.

<sup>7</sup> Rot. Claus., 36th Hen. VI.

<sup>2</sup> Probate 20th January 1574 P.C. Bristol.

<sup>4</sup> Riddles = curtains.

<sup>6</sup> Rot. Claus., 35th Hen. VI, m. 1 d.

<sup>8</sup> Inq. p.m., 38th, 39th Henry VI, No. 59.

John Poyntz succeeded his father in his estates,<sup>1</sup> and having made fealty and homage and given security for his relief was granted full seizin of his lands on 28th October 1460,<sup>2</sup> but he survived his father only a short time. He married Alice daughter of John Cock of Bristol, or of ... Cox of Skenfrith, co. Mon., who had an assignment of dower in 1467-8.<sup>3</sup> By this lady he left seven children, of whom Robert his heir, who was 17 years of age on his father's death, and Thomas his second, were somewhat remarkable in their generation. Thomas Poyntz was an Esquire for the King's Body, and was attached to the household of Prince Arthur. On the 10th May 1488, Thomas Poyntz, an Esquire of the Body, had a grant for life of the office of Steward of the Hundred of Bisley and Keeper of the Parks of Barnesley, Brimsfield, and Missenden, all in co. Gloucester, which on the death of Cecilia Duchess of York will revert to the King and his consort

<sup>1</sup> Could this John Poyntz have been the gentleman mentioned in the following correspondence:—In a letter written 9th December 1468 by one Godfrey Greene, "*To my right reverend and most especial gude maistre Sir William Plompton, Knight,*" among much other news of the day is this passage: My Lord of Oxford is comitt to the Tower, and it is said in irons, and that he has confessed mye he thinge; and on Munday afore St. Andrew day one Alford and Poiner, gentlemen to my Lord of Northfolk, and one Sr. peirs Skinner of London, were beheaded.

The learned Editor, the late Thomas Stapleton, Esq., F.S.A., appends the following note:—The news communicated by Godfrey Greene in this letter furnishes some additional historical information to fill up the meagre outline of the events of the time, as given in the chronicles. To begin with the "remarkable fragment" printed by Hearne in the same volume with "*Sprotti chronica*," p. 296; it is there narrated, "this vij<sup>th</sup> (*lege vij<sup>th</sup>*) yere Margarete sustir unto King E. bifore saide departid frome the King, and rode thurgh oute London behynde the Erle of Warwicke, and rode that niȝt to Stratford Abbay, and from thens to the se syde, and went into Flaundes to Brugis, where she was maryid with grate solempnite. And within shute space aftir, thois astates, as the Duchess of Northfolk with othir, retournid in to Englund, in whois Company were ij yong gentilmen, that one namid John Poyntz and that othir William Alsford, the which were arestid bicause in the tyme of the foresaide mariage they had familiar communication with the Duke of Somerset and his complices there, in which they were bothe deteetid of treason; whereuppon one Richard Steris skinner of London with thois ij. were behedid at the toure-hill the xxj. day of Novembre." This extract is from a contemporary and well-informed writer, and accords with the news in the letter, save that the day of execution is spoken of in the letter as being Monday before St. Andrew's day, i.e. 28th November (instead of Monday night, 21st November), and the same Steris (or Staires, Rot. Parl., VI, 229<sup>b</sup>) is written St. peirs, an error no doubt of our copyist in 1612. In Fabyan is this notice on the events of the year 1468, 8th Edw. IV.: "This yere, and xxj day of Novembre, a servaunt of the Duks of Exeter, named Richard Sterys, after his jugement, was drawn through the cytie unto the Tower Hylle, and there parted in ij pesys, that is, the hede from the body. And upon the daye followinge, two persones beyng named (the one) Poynys and the other Alforde, were drawn westwarde to Tyborne, and there whan the shulde have been hanged, then chartours were shewyd, and so preservyd." (Plumpton Correspondence, Camden Society, p. 18, 1839).

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Fin., 39th Henry VI., No. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Claus. 7th Edw. IV.



Elizabeth, in right of the said Elizabeth. And on 8th March following (1488-9), in consideration of his services to the King and also to the King's first born son Arthur, he was granted an annuity of 40 marks out of the manor of Ringwood, co. Hants. He was subsequently Knight of the King's Body and served the office of Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1509. He married Johanna, relict of Walter Devereux, Lord of Ferrers, in whose right he held the castle and manor of Weobly, co. Hereford.<sup>1</sup> His sister Elizabeth, known as Bessie Poyntz, was nurse to the son of Henry VIII. by Katherine his Queen. The child died an infant.

Dame Alice, relict of Sir John Poyntz, after his death married, as his second wife, Sir Edward Berkeley of Beverston and died 29th October 1509.<sup>2</sup>

Sir Robert Poyntz, son and heir of Sir John Poyntz was in 1483 one of the Esquires of the Body to King Edw. IV., and as such was present at his funeral. In the following year he was Sheriff of Southampton, and was granted by King Richard III. a pardon for all manner of crimes. He seems however to have renounced his allegiance and to have become an active adherent of the Earl of Richmond, and was knighted at the battle of Redmore after King Richard was slain, 22nd August 1485.<sup>3</sup> He appears to have stood high in the new King's favour and confidence. On 12th of the following month he was appointed Sheriff of Gloucestershire during pleasure, and was confirmed in the same on 12th November. On the 25th September he was granted the office of Steward of the Hundred of Barton with the Great Court, beside the town of Bristol, also Steward of Sodbury and Master of the Game there during the minority of Edward son and heir of George Duke of Clarence, also the office of Steward of Thornbury and Master of the Game within the Parks and Lordship, all within the co. Gloucester, during pleasure.<sup>4</sup> On 8th March following, jointly with Sir Alexander Baynham, Knt., he was granted, in survivorship the office of Constable of the Castle of St. Briavels with the fees thereto pertaining. In 1486 King Henry dined with Sir Robert Poyntz at Acton, on his way to Bristol, and in the next year, by writ of Privy Seal, he was granted the sum of £50, by way of reward. In this year he was one of the Knights Bachelors present

<sup>1</sup> Inq. p.m. Thomas Baynham, Rich. III. and Hen. VII., No. 178.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. p.m. 1st Henry VIII.

<sup>3</sup> Cott. MS., Claud. III, fo. 9. The arms assigned to him are Quarterly, 1 and 4, per pale and per fess indented Ar. and Az. counterchanged; 2 and 3, Quarterly, Gu. and Or counterchanged a bendlet Ar. Crest—Four teazles erect stalked and foliated Vert, fructed Or. These are the arms of Acton and Fitz Nicholl.

<sup>4</sup> Materials for the History of England, Henry VII. Public Records.

at the Coronation of Elizabeth of York, Queen of Henry VII. In 1488 he was appointed one of the Commissioners to take the muster of archers, &c., and in the next year on 3rd July was placed in a Commission for Sewers from Berkeley to Kingrode, and on the 6th September in the same year in the Commission of the Peace, then limited to a few of the principal men of the county only. In 1491 he was again Sheriff of Gloucestershire. On 3rd December 1492 he was appointed Seneschal of the Castle of Berkeley and Master of the chases, parks, and waters of the Hundred of Berkeley,<sup>1</sup> now in the King's hands by the gift of William Marquis Berkeley. And on the 15th February the same year, he was granted an annuity of £21 a year, out of the issues of certain lands in the lordship of Lancerne. And on the same day letters of exemplification were granted to Robert son and heir of John, son and heir of Nicholas Poyntz.<sup>2</sup> On 14th January 1496 a covenant was entered into between John Walsh of Olveston, co. Gloucester, and Sir Robert Poyntz, for the marriage of John Walsh, son and heir of the said John Walsh, and Ann, the daughter of the said Robert, and also with reference to the marriage of Nicholas Poyntz and one of the daughters of the said John Walsh. John Walsh senior died not long after, and on 1st December 1503 Sir Robert Poyntz was granted the wardship and marriage of John Walsh, son and heir of John Walsh, Esq., deceased, who was the son and heir also of Elizabeth, lately wife of the said John Walsh,<sup>3</sup> deceased, which John and Elizabeth at their deaths held divers lands and tenements by military service separately, and also the maritagium of the said John Walsh if he should die under age.<sup>4</sup> John Walsh, the younger, married Ann, daughter of John Dinley of co. Hants, but he afterwards took as his second wife the aforesaid Ann Poyntz, as we shall see presently. On the reception of Katherine of Arragon, who landed at Plymouth on 5th October, certain great personages were appointed to meet her at Ambresbury on her journey towards London, among whom was Sir Robert Poyntz.<sup>5</sup>

On 28th May 1517 Sir Robert Poyntz and Thomas Poyntz were granted a licence for imparking land in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, and Worcestershire; and on the 24th July in the same year Sir Robert Poyntz and Sir Anthony Poyntz were appointed Stewards in survivorship of the Lordship of Barton near Bristol, and of the Great Court, alias Erle's Court, held annually at St. James, Bristol, and to be Stewards in survivorship of all the lands of William late Marquis of Berkeley on surrender by the said Robert of the

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Pat. 8th Hen. VII.

<sup>4</sup> Rot. Pat. 19th Henry VII.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Pat. 8th Hen. VII.

<sup>5</sup> Letters of Rich. III. and Hen. VII., vol. i., p. 8.

<sup>3</sup> This lady was the daughter of Richard Foster of Carbery.

Patent of 3rd December, 8th Henry VIII. He was also Chancellor and Privy Councillor to Queen Katherine.

William Lord Berkeley, son and heir of James Lord Berkeley by Isabel elder daughter and heir of Thomas Mowbray Duke of Norfolk, affecting to take offence at the marriage of Maurice his brother and heir presumptive, but moved more by envy at the elevation by the favour of the King of his first cousin John Lord Howard, son of Margaret the younger daughter and coheir of the said Thomas Duke of Norfolk, and coparcenar with him on the death s.p. of Ann, daughter and sole heir of John Mowbray Duke of Norfolk, and his own ambitious desire, resolved at all costs, to attain to as high a rank, to this end he dissipated the whole of his vast estates, including the Baronies of Berkeley, Mowbray, Segrave, and Bedford, within the period of ten years by grants to the King and his courtiers, through which he was successively created Viscount Berkeley, Earl of Nottingham, Earl Marshal, Great Marshal of England, and finally Marquis Berkeley, having after all failed to attain the summit of his ambition.

Maurice Berkeley, brother and heir of the said Marquis, who had been so cruelly disinherited of the whole of the estates to which he was entitled, naturally set himself to investigate his title and endeavour to recover what he could of the lands of which he had been so unjustly deprived. He became a very shrewd and skilful lawyer, so much so that he conducted his own cases in the courts and succeeded by process of law in recovering from King Henry VII many manors and lands. In the year to which we have now reached (8th Henry VII) he proceeded against Sir Robert Poyntz, then an Esquire of the Body to the King, whom the King, as we have seen above, had just made Steward of the Honour and Manor of Berkeley, to recover the Manor of Daglingworth. Maurice claimed this manor as his inheritance at common law as descended to him from Ralph Bluet, whose family had long possessed it, which Ralph entailed it upon Ralph his son and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of their two bodies, who had issue John Bluet who had issue Elizabeth who married James Lord Berkeley father of the late Marquis and this Lord Maurice. That James Lord Berkeley afterwards enfeoffed Richard Venables and others in the said manor to certain uses, and after the said James and Isabel his wife by a fine granted the same to Nicholas Poyntz and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of the body of the said Nicholas who was the father of Sir John Poyntz father of this Sir Robert. The estate which the said Richard Venables and his cofeoffees the said Marquis Berkeley had, from whom the said manor descended to the said Maurice as to his brother and



heir, who entered, and thereby was remitted to the entail made by Ralph Bluet the father and so is seized; and so also that the said Lord James his father and other parties to the said fine, had nothing in the said manor at the time the fine was levied.

Maurice Berkeley brought also another suit against Sir Robert Poyntz to recover certain other lands in Daglingworth and Cirencester, whereto Sir Robert made title under a gift in tail made by Ponce Poyntz son of Nicholas unto Thomas Poyntz and Alice his wife and the heirs of their bodies; and layeth down that the said Thomas and Alice had issue Robert Poyntz, father of Nicholas before mentioned, who by Elizabeth his wife had issue John father of the said Sir Robert, plaintiff.<sup>1</sup> Smyth says this Lord was successful in this action by like nicety as before.

These proceedings were conducted with the greatest acrimony and virulence, and were the root of much bitterness, which existed between the two families for four or five descents. Even the marriage in 19th Henry VIII of Nicholas Poyntz and Jane youngest daughter of Thomas Lord Berkeley, the fifth of that name, grandchildren to the parties to the above suit, which was specially designed as a reconciliation of the family animosities, failed to effect it.

Sir Robert Poyntz married Margaret illegitimate daughter of Sir Anthony Wydville, Baron Scales, *jure uxoris*, and Earl Rivers, beheaded at Pontefract, 25th June 1483. Her mother was Gwentlian daughter of Sir William Stradling and Isabella his wife. On the occasion of this marriage her father settled upon his daughter 800 marks, 200 whereof were to be paid on the sealing of the deed on certain days appointed. He also settled upon her lands to the yearly value of one hundred marks.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless there is no evidence whatever of a marriage having taken place between the parties. There is an old letter in the possession of the present Mr. Stradling of Clevedon Court, co. Som., from Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Tockington, co. Glouc., to the Right Wor-

<sup>1</sup> Berkeley MSS., *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. ii, pp. 162 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> Anthony Widville in the lifetime of his father married Elizabeth daughter and heir of Thomas Lord Scales, and in her right was summoned to Parliament. He married secondly Mary daughter and heir to Henry Fitz Lewis (Banks's "Baronage"). In his will dated 23rd June 1483 he directs masses to be said for the soul of "Syr Henry Lewes, and that my wife have all such plate as was the same Henry Lewes's, and other of my plate to the value of as much as I hadd of his, also that she have all such plate as was given hyr at our marriage." This would seem entirely to exclude any marriage with Gwentlian Stradling. It is stated in Dugdale's "Warwickshire" and Blomfield's "Norfolk" that Sir Anthony Widville left no children by either of his two wives, but by a beloved mistress called Gwentlian, only daughter of Sir William Stradling and Isabel his wife, he had a daughter Margaret who married Sir Robert Poyntz of Iron Acton.

shipful Sir Edward Stradling, Knt., dated at Tockington Lodge 13th June 1584, asking Sir Edward Stradling to furnish him with proofs of the legitimacy of Margaret Rivers, who married my "Great Grand fauther, from whom I descende, knowing that you can therein certifie me the troeth, because she was a daughter to your ancestor." It is also stated that Wentlian was the wife of Anthony Widville Earl Rivers. Their daughter Margaret married Sir Robert Poyntz. Earl Rivers made his will in Pontefract Castle just before his execution, whereof he appointed Sir Robert Poyntz one of his executors.

In 1520 Sir Robert Poyntz and Sir Anthony Poyntz were among the Knights summoned from Gloucestershire to attend upon the King at the Field of the Cloth of Gold.<sup>1</sup>

Sir Robert Poyntz by Margaret Widville had eight children, of the more remarkable of whom we shall refer to more particularly presently. It appears from the Inquisition taken, after his death, at Bristol on the 25th September 1521, of the messuages and tenements he held in that city, that he died on the 5th November, 12th Henry VIII (1520), and that Anthony Poyntz was his son and heir and was aged 40 years and more. A similar Inquisition was taken at Thornbury on 13th November following,<sup>3</sup> for the County of Gloucester, from which it appears that before his death he had settled nearly all his lands to the uses appointed in his will dated 19th October 1620; an abstract of which will be printed in the Appendix. In this instrument he directed that his body should "be buried in the Church of the Gaunts beside Bristol, in the Chapel of Jesus, which latelie I have caused to be new edified and made at my costs and charges, on the south side of the chauncell of the sayde church, and the over part thereof, behynde the Presbitery there, that is to witte, in a vawte in the same thereonto redy prepared and ordeyned. Mine executors to provide a fyne small marble stone to be laid over the myddes of the vawte with a scripture making mention of all the bodies that lye buried in the same vawte, and of the days and years of their decease."<sup>4</sup> All the executors

<sup>1</sup> State Papers.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. p.m. 13th Henry VIII, Exch. No. 5.

<sup>4</sup> There is now no trace of this stone, but there are two bosses in the beautiful roof of this chapel, each charged with a shield of Arms. The eastern boss is carved and emblazoned with the arms of King Henry VIII. impaling those of Castile and Leon quarterly, for his then Queen Katherine of Arragon. On the western boss are the arms of Sir Robert himself:—Quarterly, 1, Barry of eight Gu. and Or (POYNTZ); 2, Quarterly per fess indented Ar. and Az. (ACTON); 3, Paly of six Ar. and Az. upon a fess Gu. three mullets Or. (CLANVOWE); 4, Quarterly, Gu. and Or, a bendlet Ar. (FITZ NICHOLL) impaling, Quarterly of six for his wife Margaret Wydville: 1, Ar., a lion ramp. quevée forchée Gu. crowned Or (ST. PAUL); 2, Ar., six escallop shells Sa. (not

named in the will would seem to have renounced, and administration of the effects of the deceased was granted with will annexed in 1523 to Anthony Poyntz his son and heir. A return is made of £40 for which the said Robert Poyntz, along with Bradstone, had become security for Sir Alexander Baynham, Sheriff.

Sir Anthony Poyntz, as we have just seen, was returned by the jurors, on the Inquisition post mortem of his father, as aged 40 years, hence he was born in 1480 or before. As Anthony Poyntz Esquire he was Sheriff of Gloucester in 1507. He had attained equestrian rank in 1513, in March of which year he was one of the Captains in the fleet of forty-two ships which assembled at Portsmouth under the command of Thomas Lord Howard, Lord High Admiral, to proceed against France.<sup>1</sup> He was one of those who stood in such high favour with the King that the influence which they were supposed to exercise produced great jealousy. Sir Thomas Boleyn, Ambassador

known); 3, Ar. a fess and canton Gu. (WYDVILLE); 4, Gu. a star of twelve points Ar. (DE BEAULX); 5, Gu. a griffin segreant Or, (unknown); 6, Vairé (BEAUCHAMP). There appears to be on an esutecheon of pretence a lion ramp. Sa., but in consequence of the height of the object, the dimness of the light, and the effect of time we are unable to speak with certainty, nor can we account for any such pretence on the part of the Wydville family. It will be noticed that on the coat of Wydville the bend sinister is omitted. This is accounted for by the fact that the Poyntzs claimed for her, though without foundation, legitimate birth, as shewn (*ante* page 66) by the letter from Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Toekington, great-grandson of Sir Robert, to Sir Edward Stradling on this subject. It is somewhat remarkable that in the Herald's Visitation of Gloucestershire 1623, the arms of the Wydville shield are allowed as quarterings to the Poyntz family, notwithstanding that the Wydville coat is shewn with the bend sinister. Margaret Wydville could not be considered an heiress in any circumstances, but we believe that in cases in which no legitimate issue existed, to be prejudiced by it, the quarterings were sometimes continued to an illegitimate person, though in law having no relations. In marshalling the arms on the Wydville shield a somewhat unusual course has been adopted in placing the arms of the lady's putative father in the third quarter instead of the first. It is, however, not placed first in the shield of Queen Elizabeth Wydville, and may have been transposed by Sir Robert Poyntz the better to ignore the bar-sinister.

In the Gaunt Chapel against the western respond of the aisle is what appears to be one of the panels of an altar tomb of Decorated work boldly carved with the arms of Poyntz quartering Aeton, Clanvowe, and Fitz Nieholl, with two lions for supporters.

It should, however, be noticed that in the pedigree recorded at the Herald's Visitation of Gloucestershire in 1623 is the following note relative to this marriage:—

A testimony of this match aperceth by indentures of covenant of the mariag yett extant under the hand and seale of the said Erle, by letters written by the hand of the reverend ffather Morton Cardinale, also by the arms of the Erle impaled with Poyntz on the top of a Chappell near Bristowe where they lye buried. Harl. MS. 1543, fo. 36.

<sup>1</sup> Hall's Chron., p. 535. Ed. 1809.



in France<sup>1</sup>, writing to Cardinal Wolsey on 10th May 1519, says, it is written to the French King, as he told me, how the King's Grace hath put away divers of his mignons, as Carew, Bryan, Nevel, Guildford, Peche and Pointz, that the manner of it was thus—the Cardinal and Council sent for these gentlemen and said to them how the brute (report) was that they governed the King after their appetite which was not honourable, wherefore they should come no more to court, &c., and the Cardinal in his answer saith these young men, as he calls them, were removed and other said Consailers put in their places.<sup>2</sup> This, if true, did not much affect his relations with the King. On 13th April 1520 he was, as before stated, one of the Knights from Gloucestershire who were appointed to attend upon his Grace on his passage over the sea to Calais, on the occasion of the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and among the noble women who accompanied the Queen was Sir Anthony Poyntz's daughter. In the following year he together with Sir Thomas Poyntz were on the jury upon the indictment found against Edward Stafford Duke of Buckingham on a charge of high treason. In this year war broke out again between Francis I. of France and the Emperor, and a treaty was entered into between the Constable of Bourbon, the Emperor, and the King of England, in which it was agreed that France should be divided between the two latter. On 30th August 1522 an expedition was sent under the command of Thomas Howard, now Earl of Surrey, Lord High Admiral, with whom were Sir Anthony Poyntz, Sir Maurice Berkeley and divers other knights and gentlemen, who leaving their ships at Calais invaded Picardy, and destroyed many towns and villages, but winter approaching they returned without the acquisition of much military glory or political advantage. In August 1523 we find Sir Anthony Poyntz in command of a fleet in the western seas to defend the coasts against the French. On the 28th of that month Cardinal Wolsey writing to the King states that he had instructed the Vice-Admiral to send two ships "westwardes to joyne Sir Anthony Poyntz for his better strength."<sup>3</sup> In this year he was one of the Assessors of Subsidies for the County of Gloucester. In the year 1529, in the proceedings against Queen Katherine for a divorce, Sir Anthony Poyntz was one of the witnesses. His deposition may be found in the Cotton MSS. Vitellius B. xii, 110 et seq. In 1530 he obtained letters patent, which, reciting former letters patent, by which he was granted the custody of Kingswood

<sup>1</sup> Created Viscount Rochford 1525, Earl of Wiltshire, Earl of Ormond in Ireland, 1529, K.G., ob. 1538.

<sup>2</sup> MS., Jesus Coll., Oxon.

<sup>3</sup> State Papers, Henry VIII., i, 122.

Forest, granting the same to him and to his son Nicholas Poyntz on the same terms as held by Francis Poyntz.<sup>1</sup> In the 24th of the same King he was granted to farm the Manor and Hundred of Barton near Bristol, which after his death descended to his son Nicholas Poyntz.<sup>2</sup>

Sir Anthony Poyntz was twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Huddersfield of Shillingford, co. Devon, by Katherine daughter of Sir Philip Courtenay of Powderham by Elizabeth daughter of William Lord Hungerford. This lady was thrice married. Her first husband was Thomas Rogers of Canington, co. Somerset, Serjeant-at-Law. She married, secondly Sir St. Clare Pomeroy of Berry Pomeroy, Knt., and thirdly Sir William Huddersfield of Shillingford aforesaid, whom she survived, and making her will on 21st November 1510, as his relict, says "my daughter Elizabeth Poyntz to have all such stuffe as remaineth in my place at Birtporte (Bridport), Dorset, as in a Bill made and subscribed by me is specified or declared, so that the said Elizabeth and her husband Sir Anthony Poyntz, &c." If they vex or trouble my executors I give it to my son George [Rogers].<sup>3</sup> He married secondly Jane Guildford relict of Sir Richard Guildford, Knt. On 12th April 1527, the King granted to Sir Anthony Poyntz, Knt., and Dame Joan Guildford his wife a tun of Gascon wine yearly, during the life of the said Joan, out of the prizes of wine in the ports of London, Bristol and Southampton.<sup>4</sup> And in an Act of Parliament 22nd Henry VIII., cap. 17 (1530,) confirming a grant to Henry Duke of Richmond and Somerset, there is the following reservation :—Provyded alway that this Acte, nor any thyng therein contayned, shall yn any wyse be hurtfull or prejudiciall to Sir Anthony Poyntz, Knt., and the Lady Jane Guildford his wyfe, late the wyfe of Sir Richard Guildford K<sup>t</sup>. nor to any of them, of, for, or concernying an annuytie, or yerly Rent of xlti to be had, perceyved or taken yn, owte, or uppon the premissis, or any parte or parcell thereof yn "the Manor of Ridley, co. Chester." Sir Anthony Poyntz died in 1535, but we do not find his will or any administration relating to his effects.

John Poyntz, second son of Sir Robert Poyntz, was the founder of the family of Poyntz of Alderley, of which we shall write hereafter.

Sir Francis Poyntz, third son of Sir Robert Poyntz, was in the diplomatic service of the King. He was an Esquire of the Body in 1526. In 1527 he was sent on a special mission to the Emperor to solicit, jointly with the French Ambassador, the deliverance of the children of the King of

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Pat., 22nd Henry VIII.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. V.O. Henry VIII., No. 85.

<sup>3</sup> Prob. P.C.C. 4, Holder.

<sup>4</sup> Rot. Pat., 10th Henry VIII.

France detained as hostages under the Treaty of Madrid. The original and secret instructions given to him by the King on this occasion, and also the additional instructions of Cardinal Wolsey in May and June 1527, are in the University Library at Cambridge.<sup>1</sup> Wolsey, in writing to the King from Abbeville on the last day of July in this year, reports that he had received newes letters from the King's ambassadors in Spain, Dr. Lee, Bishop of Worcester, and Sir Francis Poyntz, dated at Valladolid on the 21st,<sup>2</sup> and it may be of interest to remark that it was on the occasion of this journey that Wolsey first used the style of "Majestie" in addressing the King.<sup>3</sup> The Ambassadors met with a favourable reception from the Emperor, but do not appear to have succeeded in the object of their mission. On the 23rd August Sir Francis Poyntz wrote to Wolsey from Valladolid stating that the term of his safe conduct would expire before the end of the next month, and wishes to know if he is to come home. He says the country is tedious to those who follow the Court here when the Emperor removes, specially for those who came in post. Having neither bed nor other stuff to carry with them they find on their arrival nothing but bare walls. We know not when he obtained permission to return, but probably soon after the date above cited. Certainly he was in England in the middle of the following year. Sir John Russell writing to Cardinal Wolsey from Hertford, on 26th June 1528, says; The Kinges Majestie is moche troublid with this disease of the Swet; for, as this night, there is fallen syke my Lorde Marques, and my Lady Marques,<sup>4</sup> Sir Thomas Cheney, Maistras Croke; Maister Norres and Maister Wallop<sup>5</sup> be recoverid; and Maister Poynes is departed, whiche Jhesu pardon.<sup>6</sup> Sir Francis died on the 26th June, the day the above was written, s.p., and was buried at Hunsden in co. Herts. An Inquisition was taken at Gloucester on 4th November 21st Henry VIII. when it was found that he died on 26th June 20th Henry VIII. without heirs male of his body, and that Anthony Poyntz son and heir of Robert Poyntz, Knt., was his nearest heir. The manor of Elkstone is the subject of the Inquisition. He received from Francis I. a gift of plate for his service in Spain in the French cause which he gave to his father, and which is mentioned in the will of Sir Robert Poyntz.

<sup>1</sup> (Ee. 4, 27, p. 43, et sub.) State Papers, Henry VIII., i, 225.

<sup>2</sup> These letters are among the Cotton MSS., British Museum. Vesp., c. iv, leaf 174.

<sup>3</sup> State Papers, Henry VIII., vol. i, p. 334.

<sup>4</sup> The Marquis and Marchioness of Dorset.

<sup>5</sup> Sir John Wallop.

<sup>6</sup> State Papers, Henry VIII., i, 302.



As to the other issue of Sir Robert Poyntz it will suffice to refer to the tabular pedigree. Sir Anthony Poyntz in 1531 presented John Selwyn to the Church of Iron Acton and died about four years later, of the exact date we have no record. He had issue seven children, five sons and two daughters, of whom two of his sons, Robert and Thomas, died before their father. Sir Nicholas Poyntz was his son and heir, of whom only it will be sufficient to speak specifically in this place. He was present of the christening of Prince Edward on 12th October 1537, and in 1539 he was one of the Grooms of the Bedchamber to the King. He was Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1538 and 1544, and 1555 was Burgess in Parliament for Cricklade, co. Wilts. In 1545 he commanded some ships in the Channel, apparently for the defence of the mercantile shipping against pirates. The Privy Council writing to Thomas Thirlby<sup>1</sup> then Commissioner at Bourbourg, say "Sir Nicholas Poyntz is not here but in his own countrey, which is, as you knowe, above 160 myles hens, and yet being appoynted to the sees on the West Partes, we ar in doubt wheder he be departed, nevertheless we will send vnto him, and do asmuch for the knoweledge of the matier as may be done conveniently."<sup>2</sup>

In the contention for the succession to the Crown on the death of Edward VI. between the Princess Mary and the Lady Jane Grey, Sir Nicholas Poyntz adopted the cause of the daughter of his old master, apparently to the disappointment of her competitor. Strype says, 18th July 1553, Queen Jane (she had been proclaimed on the 10th) thinking herself sure of Sir John Bridges and Sir Nicholas Poyntz signed a letter to them, ordering them to raise with speed all the power they could of their servants, tenants, officers, and friends to allay a tumult in Bucks which had arisen in favour of Mary,<sup>3</sup> but the day after the date of the letter quoted, Mary was proclaimed in London, and on the day following Northumberland himself proclaimed her at Cambridge. Meanwhile Sir Nicholas Poyntz wrote to Sir John St. Lac, his uncle, announcing Mary's proclamation at Chepe Cross in London. He rallied to the Queen's side and we find a few notices of him at the time of Wyat's rebellion. In February 1553-4 Sir Nicholas Poyntz (Poyntz) being an assistant at the Tower was with the Queen to know whether they should "shot of at the Kentysh men, and so bett doune the houses upon their heddes," and again, there stood

<sup>1</sup> The King's Chamberlain, afterwards Bishop of Norwich and Ely. Deprived 1559.

<sup>2</sup> State Papers, Hen. VIII., x, 484.

<sup>3</sup> Strype's "Life of Cranmer," vol. iii, 7 and appendix.

<sup>4</sup> Letter in the Longleat Collection, printed in the "Wilts Magazine," vol. viii, p. 310.

“upon the leddes of the White Tower Sir Nicholas Poyns, Sir Thomas Pope, Master John Sea Mor, and others.” This was during the conflict at Charing Cross. And when the prisoners were being brought in Sir Nicholas with others were at the landing place to receive them, and it is said: Then came Thomas Cobham whom Sir Nicholas Poyntz took by the bosome, and saide, “Alas, Maister Cobham, what wynde headed you to work such treason?” and he answered, “I was seduced.”<sup>1</sup>

We do not know of any other public employment in which Sir Nicholas Poyntz was engaged. On Midsummer Day 1528 he married Joan youngest daughter of Thomas V. Lord Berkeley at her father's house at Yate. This was the alliance which was intended to heal all animosities between the two families to which we have before alluded (ante p. 65), but it failed of having that effect. The arrangements made by the parents of the parties on this marriage are worth noting as illustrative of the usage of the times. The marriage portion of the lady was 1600 marks, whereof £100 was to be paid at the marriage and 100 marks each year after, and it was further agreed that if Nicholas died before the marriage the said Joan should marry his brother Giles Poyntz. Each father, at his own cost, to apparell his own child after his degree, the charges of the wedding to be equally borne by either party with divers arrangements as to the jointure of the lady in case she survived her husband and contingent upon her succession to the Berkeley estates, either solely or jointly with her sister Meryell in case of the deaths of her brothers. This marriage brought Nicholas Poyntz and his brother Giles into closer contact with their brother-in-law Maurice Berkeley and they readily took part in the contentions of that family, as we shall presently see.

This unfortunate Lady survived her husband, and “in her elder years” Smyth says, “married Sir Edward Dyer and dyed in the Sixth of Elizabeth,”<sup>2</sup> She ended her days in the greatest misery. Her husband would seem from the following statement to have treated her with the greatest cruelty, though this cruelty is not mentioned by Smyth. “In the month of March [1563] died the Lady Poyntz whose husband had been a great Officer and favorite with King Henry VIII. Her death I should not have mentioned but because somewhat happened very strange but a little while before her Departure. She had married one Dyer, a Second Husband, whose Carriage to her was so inhuman that it broke her Heart with sorrow, while she lay Sick he allowed her not the necessary help of physick, and to add to her Grief she seemed to lye also under the

<sup>1</sup> “Chronicle of Queen Jane and Two Years of Queen Mary.” Camden Society, 1849.

<sup>2</sup> Berkeley MSS. Smyth's *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. ii, p. 236.

Queen's Displeasure. However Her Majesty hearing of her great Sickness took pity upon her and sent her a kind letter and £50 to buy her Apothecaries Stuff together with which came another letter of Comfort from the Queen's Secretary. With all which she sent Santon her messenger to Welles where the Lady then lay. The Messenger came to her March the 21st, when she had almost lost her Hearing, Sight and Speech and on which Day she died. But as soon as the messenger had delivered his Message from the Queen, and her Letters together with the Secretary's were read to her, she presently recovered perfect Hearing, perfect Sight and a perfect Speech which continued with her until her Breath failed. She appointed in what Order her Majesties Letter, and the Secretary's should be answered, and after she had put her Hand to them, and with her own Hands taken and kissed and delivered those letters, she presently died, with Memory, Speech, Sight, and Hearing perfect until the last."<sup>1</sup>

Thomas V. Lord Berkeley settled upon his second son Maurice, brother of the lady above-mentioned, *inter alia*, the manor of Mangotsfield. Thomas elder brother of Maurice, who succeeded to the title and estates as Thomas VI, married to his second wife Ann Savage, daughter of Sir John Savage of Frodsham in Cheshire, Knt., a lady of a temperament very suitable to her name. Smyth says of her, "She was a lady of a masculine spirit, over-powerful with her husband, seldom at rest with herself, never wanting matter of suit or discontent to work upon."<sup>2</sup> Her husband died before the birth of Henry his son and heir, consequently there was a long minority under this turbulent, ferocious lady. She endeavoured very soon after her husband's death to wrest from Maurice Berkeley the Manor of Mangotsfield and other lands given him by his father, which indeed her husband himself while alive, doubtless at her instigation, had claimed. Great contentions arose between them into which Sir Nicholas Poyntz and Giles his brother were naturally drawn to take part with their brother-in-law Maurice. Whilst these suits were proceeding in the courts of law Maurice accompanied with his brother-in-law Nicholas Poyntz and Giles Poyntz his brother, to worke despite to this lady, they, one night specially (as often they did the like) with a riotous company of their servants and others, entered her parke at Yate, and having havocked her deere at pleasure, swore amongst themselves, they would, to fret and damage her the more, set the great hay rick on fire, meaning a great rick of hay for winter provision inclosed with a high pale at the stable end adjoyning to the house, wishing the fire might

<sup>1</sup> Strype's "Annals of the Reformation," folio edition, 1725, p. 435.

<sup>2</sup> Berkeley MSS., Smyth's *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. ii, p. 253.



catch the house and burn the lady with her werish boy in the midst of it, and then Maurice (quoth Giles Poynz) thou shall be heire and wee have an end of all our sutes. It chanced at the same time another company of hunters to be in the same parke stealing also of the ladies deere, who perceiving a stronger pack of theeves than themselves to bee in place and better provided, had drawn themselves secretly to shelter under the said hay ricke, where, closely standing and hearing what was said and determined, and fearing either to be descried or burned, presently ran away and fled, which being perceived by Maurice and his company, and by them thought to be of the ladies family, and such as shee and her keepers had drawn together, they also, as loth to be descryed or taken, fled as fast another way; and so by this chance was a great danger prevented.<sup>1</sup>

Many other such riotous proceedings occurred, "not before practised I think," Smyth says, "since the lawles daies of Robinhood, the remembrance of many whereof are yet of fresh memory in those partes."<sup>2</sup>

Lady Berkeley was the Mrs. Anne Savage who was said to have borne up the train of Anne Boleyne on her alleged private marriage with King Henry VIII. She was soon afterwards herself married to the Lord Berkeley, "a marriage which," Smyth says "seems to have been contrived by the said King and Queen or one of them."<sup>3</sup> Though the eventual marriage of the parties did not turn out very satisfactorily, at least to the Queen, Lady Berkeley had naturally much influence with her old master, to whom, in this case, she had recourse, "who granted her a special commission under the Great Seal to enquire, hear and determine these riots and other misdemeanors, and made her one of the Commissioners and of the *quorum*, whereupon she came to Gloucester and there sate on the Bench in the publique Sessions Hall, impanelled a jury, received evidence, found Sir Nicholas Poynz and Maurice Berkeley and their fellowes guilty of divers riotts and disorders, and fyned them."<sup>4</sup>

Sir Nicholas Poyntz died in 1556. His inquisition post mortem was taken at Gloucester on 8th Jan., 1556-7. The jurors say that Robert Poyntz, Knight, grandfather of the said Nicholas, long before his death was seized in his demesne as of fee of the Manor of Iron Acton and enfeoffed Thomas Cardinal of England and others by fine in Trinity Term 8th Henry VIII. for the payment of his debts and carrying out the provisions of his last will, with remainder to his son and heir Sir Anthony Poyntz and his heirs male. And the jurors say that the said Anthony had issue the said Nicholas Poyntz, Knt., who had issue Nicholas

<sup>1</sup> Berkeley MSS., Smyth's *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. p. 269.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 252.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 270.

Poyntz, and recites the marriage contract dated 12th May, 1st and 2nd Philip and Mary (1555), between the said Nicholas, son and heir apparent of the aforesaid Nicholas and Johanna his wife, and Anne Verney, one of the daughters of Sir Ralph Verney,<sup>1</sup> and they say further that the said Nicholas Poyntz, Knt., died [illegible] and that Nicholas Poyntz, Esq., is his son and nearest heir and is aged 21 years and more.<sup>2</sup> Sir Nicholas Poyntz made his will 26th Feb., 1555-6. He names his son and heir Nicholas and his younger sons Francis, Anthony, Edmund, and John, but not his two daughters Frances and Anne, To his wife Dame Johan he gives his new house at Osilworth that standeth on the hill and the parke during her life, remainder to his second son Francis for life. The will was proved by Johan Poyntz relict and executrix, 3rd July, 1557.<sup>3</sup>

The manor of Ozleworth, the new house and park, which was bequeathed by Sir Nicholas Poyntz to his wife Johan for life with remainder to his second son Francis for life, was, according to Atkyns, parcel of the possessions of the Abbey of Kingswood, and was granted to Sir Nicholas Poyntz in 31st Henry VIII, who died seized thereof 4th Philip and Mary, and his son Nicholas had livery of the manor the same year and sold it to Sir Thomas Rivet, Alderman of London, and it was purchased from him by Sir Gabriel Low, also an Alderman of London. Timothy Low his descendant was lord of the manor in Atkyn's time, who hath he says "an handsome seat in this parish called Newark; it stands high and hath a good prospect: it was built by Sir Nicholas Poyntz out of the ruins of Kingswood Abbey about a mile from the church."<sup>4</sup>

Francis, second son of Nicholas Poyntz, held some office in the Court of Queen Elizabeth. We know nothing of him beyond what is disclosed by certain proceedings in Chancery, taken upon the complaint of William Hobbes of London, yeoman, on 16th Nov. 1590. The complainant shewed that "whereas Francis Poyntz of Thornbury, co. Glouc., Esq., and Ann his wife in January 1587, being then in London and serving for an Office in Court, for their better

<sup>1</sup> The marriage of Sir Nicholas Poyntz with one of the two daughters of Sir Ralph Verney is recorded on a monument in the middle of Clayton Church, co. Bucks. The other daughter married Sir Francis Hynde, of Madingby, co. Cambridge, Knt. ("Topographer," vol. ii, p. 366.) Two of these ladies' brothers were tried for their share in Dudley's conspiracy. (Verney Papers, Camden Society.)

<sup>2</sup> Inq. p.m., 3 and 4 Philip and Mary, Part i, No. 51.

<sup>3</sup> P.C.C., (22 Wrastley). Among the drawings by Hans Holbein in Windsor Castle is a portrait of this Sir Nicholas Poyntz. It has been published in the volume of Historic Portraits of the Court of Henry VIII.

<sup>4</sup> Atkyn's *History of Gloucestershire*, p. 313.

maintenance, applied to the said complainant for a loan of money for defraying the charge of dyett, &c., and offered to pawn a thing of good value which complainant dissuaded them from, and for the goodwill and affection which he bears to the said Francis and Ann did lend them £5 gratis, and afterwards at several times 20s. making together £6, which by their earnest promises, othes, and vows should have been paid to complainant on the 30th June 1587; and afterwards he lent them several sums amounting to the sum of £30 10s, which they promised to pay long since but have failed to do so." Complainant represents that he has made several journeys into Gloucestershire to obtain payment and have employed divers to deale with the said Mr. Poyntz and Anne, and have written many letters, and the said Mr. Poyntz will not be spoken withall except when he pleases, and refuses to pay the said sums as in equity he ought to do. But the said Mr. Poyntz being a man of 100 marks land a-year or thereabouts with his said wife, regarding neither the payment of the said debt, the good intention of the complainant, nor such favour and credit as he should bear in his country, liveth with his wife in very base and mean manner, and yet to the undoing of them both and spending of their living, and by these means will be disabled to pay such debts, being also altogether unwilling, of an ill mind, to pay the same, and prays redress.<sup>1</sup> Francis Poyntz married a certain Anne Stawker (?Cooke) Smyth says "dau. and heir of . . . and had issue Jone married to John Wykes of Dodington, by whom is much issue, dispersed into divers counties."<sup>2</sup>

Anthony Poyntz, third son of Sir Nicholas Poyntz, was admitted to the Inner Temple November 1567. He would seem to have turned out a disreputable character. In 1581 he is described as of Frampton, co. Gloucester, Gent., and received a pardon for divers felonies. He was convicted with others for the crime of having on 1st Nov. 1574 ill-treated and placed in much fear, so that his life was despaired of, on the highway at Frampton Leas, co. Glouc., one John Gurden, and having stolen from him feloniously £100 then on his person of money belonging to a certain John Parsons; also of a similar felony of having stolen from Conan Parsons a like sum of £100 (Pat. Tested at Westminster, 3rd May 1582.)<sup>3</sup>

Perhaps through the introduction of his brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Heneage, as a suitable person for the employment, he was with Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester on his expedition into the Low Countries as Lieutenant - General of the Forces sent by Queen Elizabeth in 1585 to assist the United Provinces in their

<sup>1</sup> Chancery Proceedings, Queen Elizabeth, 16th Nov., 1590.

<sup>2</sup> Berkeley MSS., Smyth's *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. ii, p. 237.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Pat. 23rd Eliz., Part 3.



great contest with Spain. On 17th March 1585-6 we find the Earl writing to Secretary Walsingham complaining that Antony Pointes, whom he had employed to go into the enemy's camp, had been sent by Walsingham into Spain: "touching Pointes" he says, "of whom you write I am sory he is sent any other waye. I delivered him an hundred poundes, and he promised me to have gone into the enemyes camp." He was, however, at the Earl's elbow for this portion of the letter is in his handwriting, and the Earl adds a postscript in his own hand. He says, "I am forst to use a Secretary, but yet, perhapps, you wyll not very plainly understand whome I meane; hit ys Anto. Poyntz, whom I sent over to gyve you knoledge how I had imployed him to the enymyes camp, a matter of most nede for me, and I mervelled that I hav never herd from [him] and within these iiij days my nephew Phillip<sup>1</sup> told me he received a letter from him that you had sent him into Spayne, whereof I am hartly sorry, having greatly dysapointyd me, having not one to suply that place nowe, and a great tyme lost, also, that you dyd not at the first gyve me knowledge of yt."<sup>2</sup> Walsingham writing to Leycester on the 1st April excuses himself by saying, "Towchyng the party that is gon to Spayne whome your lordship wysshed rather to have been employed emongest the malcontentes, yt grewe of himselfe, upon a conceypt that, being recommended by the Kyng of Spayn unto the Prince of Parma he shall be the better able to serve your lordships torne."<sup>3</sup>

Leicester's ambition and general conduct in the Netherlands gave very great offence to the Queen, insomuch that she was on the point of recalling him in disgrace. It required all the influence of Burleigh, Walsingham, and others of her best trusted ministers and members of her council, to withdraw her from her purpose, to the extent even of Burleigh threatening to resign his own office. At this critical juncture arrived Poyntz, from Sir Thomas Heneage, bearing letters to the Queen from the earl which appeased Her Majesty's wrath. Burleigh writing to Leicester on 31st March 1586, says:—"She read your letter, and, in very truth, I found her princly hart touched with favourable interpretation of your actions."<sup>4</sup> From this it would appear that Anthony Poyntz had not as yet departed upon his Spanish mission.

The special commission upon which Anthony Poyntz was employed would seem to have been not only to Spain but also to Paris, indeed we possess no distinct evidence that he was ever in Spain at all. In December 1586 we find him in Paris as a spy upon Thomas Lord Paget and his son William, Francis

<sup>1</sup> Sir Philip Sidney.

<sup>2</sup> Leycester Correspondence, Camden Society, p. 177.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 208.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 198.

Throckmorton, one Morgan, and other gentlemen of the Roman Catholic religion, who in this year, being accused of conspiring to introduce foreign troops to dethrone the Queen, privately withdrew to France. Their extradition having been demanded from Francis I. and refused, the most unworthy means were taken to entrap them, besides a close espyal of their actions, upon which Poyntz was employed. Mendoza, the Spanish Ambassador, was also implicated in this conspiracy and ordered to quit the realm, and he also was a fugitive in Paris and under the surveillance of Poyntz.<sup>1</sup>

On the 15th December 1586, Poyntz thus reports his proceedings to Sir Francis Walsingham.

“Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>. I have written one letter unto you since my arrivall in this town & lest the same should not come to your hands I do send this, the which the berer hath promised to deliver. My sickness hath hindered me that I cannot have so often access to such parsons as I would dele with notwithstanding I have been twice in the Castillon with Morgon, & oftener would be, yf I had my helth. I do find him a busie fellow although he be inclosed. I have desired him, that yf he have any matters of importance in Ingland that he w<sup>d</sup> trust me withall or els where I am. The like offar I have made to my Lord Pagett, who tould me he had good affiance in me & said he thought I would not be the ruine of him and my cousin his son.<sup>2</sup> I will not over much prease him lest he suspect me, with Mendoza I will dele in like manner y<sup>t</sup> I maye to know their frinds in ingland, for doubtless they have good intelligens from some persons of much account, and furdur herin will I be directed by your Honour, & so with humble dutie I leve your Honour to the tuition of the Almighty.”<sup>3</sup> Paris, 15 December, 1586.

Again he writes to Sir Francis Walsingham four days later desiring Sir Francis to pay twenty-five crowns, which he had been obliged to borrow in his sickness—“if I escape this sickness,” he says, “I trust to deserve it, & so with my humble dutie I leave y<sup>r</sup> Honour to the tuition of Almighty God.” 19 December, 1586.<sup>4</sup>

We do not know if Anthony Poyntz married or left issue, nor we do know the date of his death.

<sup>1</sup> Camden's Life and Reign of Queen Elizabeth. Kenneth White's Collection, vol. ii., p. 497.

<sup>2</sup> Margaret Poyntz, aunt of Francis, married Sir John Newton, whose daughter Lazaret became the wife of Thomas Lord Paget and the mother of his son, so that Anthony Poyntz and Lord Paget's son were first cousins once removed.

<sup>3</sup> Harl MSS. 286. 56-57.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

William Poyntz, sixth son of Sir Nicholas Poyntz. Of this gentleman we know nothing beyond what appears from the following letters, which will speak for themselves.

“From William Poyntz to my Hon<sup>ble</sup> Friend Mr. Francis Bacon, Esq., Twickenham Park.<sup>1</sup>

“S<sup>r</sup> Altho I never desired this favour at your hands but only that I have ever loved you and all y<sup>r</sup> Brothers, yet in respect of the good will I am assured you do bear unto Mr. Vice Chamberlain and my sister his wife I am bold in this matter of small importance to earn your friendship. If my little suit may effect I do assure you, Mr. Bacon, by all the due conditions of a gentleman you shall find your courtesy well bestowed and my noblest and meanest friends shall thanke you for my sake. I came from London this afternoon more happily than I thought I should have done & Sir Thomas Heneage & sister were both in their glory at Copt Hall. For my great good in a matter I must speedily ride as far as my Lord Chandos’ house and my horse follers me. I am in this place a stranger. For my friends sake whom you love, & for my names sake, good Mr. Francis Bacon, send your footman, or some other presently unto me with 40s. and lend it to me for 6 or 7 days till I return. I will God willing, myself bring it unto you, to Twickenham Park, and you shall see it is done for a gentleman that loves your name faithfully. I will let your courtesy done me in this strange place and at this pinch be known in the best place of England and to such as you do most honour and respect. Good Mr. Bacon, because yourself & Mr. Nicholas Bacon your Brother, did ever love me, when I was with my Lord of Leicester, send one presently unto me, for I must needs ride 15 miles on my way to night and try my deserts to you, and if I live when . . . I take my leave in hast.

“At Hounslow wheare I stay: the 8th of July 1593.

“Your loving friend to command,

“William Poyntz.”<sup>2</sup>

Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Iron Acton, son and heir of Sir Nicholas Poyntz by his wife Joan Berkeley, was born about 1535, as appears from his will dated 22nd June 1585, in which he describes himself as about fifty years of age, and this agrees pretty closely with the inquisition taken on 8th January 3rd and 4th Philip and Mary (1556-7) in which he is found to be of the age of twenty-one years and more. He makes, so far as we are aware, no figure in the history

<sup>1</sup> Francis Bacon at Twickenham Park. Memorials of Twickenham by R. S. Cobbett, 226-227.

<sup>2</sup> Sloane MSS., 4111, vol. iii, 7.



of the country, as most of his ancestors had done, but apparently lived a quiet life in his own county.

In the Star Chamber Proceedings of 27th Elizabeth (1584) we find certain Interrogatories addressed to a certain A. Neale in respect to a suit brought against him by Sir Nicholas Poyntz for trespass in his park at Iron Acton about Christmas tide 25th Elizabeth, and at other times subsequently, and there hunting, killing, and flaying the deer in the said park. The result of the suit does not appear.

Sir Nicholas Poyntz died at Iron Acton 1st September 1585, and in the Inquisition taken at Wotton under Edge on the 11th April following, it was found by the jury that long before his death he was seized in his demesne as of fee of the manors of Iron Acton, Acton Ilger, Tockington and Hill in the county of Gloucester, and being so seized he obtained a Royal licence to alienate the said manors to Thomas Throckmorton, Matthew Poyntz and others to hold to the uses following, to wit:—to the use of himself the said Nicholas for the term of his life and after his death to such uses as he might appoint under his sign and seal during his life, and that the said Thomas Throckmorton and the others should stand seized of the manors of Hill and Tockington to the use of John Poyntz, Esq., son and heir of the said Nicholas, and the heirs male of the said John. In default to the heirs male of the body of the said Nicholas, in default to the use of the right heirs of the said Nicholas for ever; and further that the said manor of Iron Acton and Acton Ilger, &c., by his writing under his seal he appointed to the use of the Lady Margaret then his wife for the term of her life, and after her decease to the use of his said son John Poyntz, with the same remainders as before stated; and the jurors further say that the said Lady Margaret is still living at Iron Acton, and that the aforesaid John Poyntz is son and next heir of the said Nicholas, and is aged 25 years and more.

This Inquisition is of considerable interest as regards the Manor of Tockington, the most ancient inheritance of the family of Poyntz. We have seen (ante p. 26) that Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Cory Malet sold in 29 Edw. III. whatever interest he had in it to Thomas III. Lord Berkeley, and the said Thomas, who died 27th Oct. 1361, left this manor, *inter alia*, to his son and heir Maurice, but it does not appear among the manors and lands of which this Maurice, known as the fourth Lord of his name, died seized, so that he must have alienated it, but we have not at present any record of the fact. By whom this Manor was held subsequently we have no information but it was towards the end of the sixteenth century the residence of one Maurice Hill, Esq., who married Margaret

youngest daughter of Richard Dennis, Esq., son and heir of Sir Walter Dennis, Knt., son and heir of Sir William Dennis of Dinham, Knt., by Anne only daughter of Maurice Lord Berkeley, the fifth of that name, who died in 1506.<sup>1</sup> And it appears from the Inquisition taken after the death of Edward Poyntz, eldest son of Sir Nicholas of whom we are writing, that Sir Nicholas Poyntz his grandfather was seized in his demesne as of fee of all that Park called Tockington Park, in the parish of Olveston, in co. Gloucester, which he had lately acquired of Richard Loughton and Mary his wife, and, being so seized, by Indentures dated 21st July 23rd Elizab. (1581), conveyed the said messuage to trustees to the use of Nicholas Poyntz his son for the term of his life, with remainder to Margaret his wife during her widowhood, and then to the use of the said Edward Poyntz, second son of the said Nicholas, and the heirs male of his body, in default of such issue remainder to Hugh Poyntz and the heirs male of his body and divers remainders over.<sup>2</sup> As is shewn above Sir Nicholas Poyntz died seized of the whole manor it is concluded that Sir Nicholas his father acquired it from Richard Loughton though the Park only was settled under the Indenture of 23rd Elizabeth.

There is an Indenture dated 28th October 21st James (1623), between Nicholas Poyntz of Tockington Park in Olveston, Esq., of the one part, and T. Middlemore of Rotherfeld, co. Sussex, and Richard Staunton of Cirencester, co. Glouc., of the other part. Nicholas Poyntz for £100 grants all that one capital messuage in Tockington Park called The Lodge, and late in the tenure of Edward Poyntz, Esq., and all Tockington Park and all lands etc. which Nicholas Poyntz, grandfather of the said Nicholas Poyntz, did in his life time purchase of one Richard Loughton and Mary his wife, to hold &c. during the life time of the said Nicholas Poyntz—if the said Nicholas Poyntz, his heirs &c. shall tender and pay &c. to T. Middlemore and R. Staunton, or one of them, on the Font stone in the Temple Church, London, between two and five of the clock in the afternoon at or before the 2nd February next, the sum of *one shilling* this Indenture shall be void.

We have already alluded (p. 75), in referring to the Inquisition post mortem of his father, to the contract for the marriage of this Nicholas with Ann the daughter of Sir Ralph Verney. By this lady he had three children:—

1. John Poyntz his son and heir, of whom presently.
2. Ursula who appears to have died unmarried.
3. Mary, who was twice married. Her first husband was Francis Cod-

<sup>1</sup> Berkeley MSS. *Lives of the Berkeleys*, vol. ii, p. 180.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 16th June, 11th James, Chan. Miscel., Part 15, No. 61.

ington, son of Giles Codrington of Didmarton, co. Glouc., by Isabel Porter, by whom she had one child named Mary who married first Edward Bromwich, and secondly John Sydenham of Nympsfield, younger brother of Sir John Sydenham of Brimpton, co. Somerset, whom she survived, and whose will she proved 5th January 1590-1. She was herself buried at Iron Acton on 7th October following, and her will was proved on 4th February 1591-2. From this will it appears that she held a lease for a term of years of the Rectory and Parsonage of Iron Acton which she bequeathed to Mary and Elizabeth, daughters of her cousin John Berkeley. By her second marriage Mary Poyntz had four daughters, Ann, Ursula, Elizabeth and Margaret.

Sir Nicholas Poyntz married secondly Margaret Stanley, daughter by his second wife of Edward third Earl of Derby, whose splendour and eminent services are eulogised by Camden and other his contemporaries. She was the relict of John Jermyn of Rushbrook, co. Somerset, by whom she had no issue. By this lady Sir Nicholas Poyntz had issue:—1, Edward, born in 1575; 2, Hugh, born 1578; 3, Robert, born 1580.

Edward Poyntz, the eldest son of the second marriage, matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, 25th October 1588, then aged thirteen years, as the son of a knight of Gloucestershire. We have seen that he inherited Tockington Park,<sup>1</sup> where he resided for some time, and afterwards settled at Caerleon, co. Monmouth. He was twice married, first to Florence, daughter of John Jones of Treowen, co. Monmouth. His second wife was named Mary, but we know not her parentage. He had four children—1, Nicholas; 2, John; 3, Ann; 4, Mary.

A suit in Chancery arose between him and his brother Sir John Poyntz. Chancery suits generally throw great light on family affairs, and in this case does not fail to do so. In his petition to the court Edward Poyntz recites that Sir Nicholas Poyntz his father was seized to him and his heirs male of the manors of Iron Acton, Acton Ilger, Lateridge, Frampton Cotterell, Hill, Tockington, &c., and had issue Sir John Poyntz his eldest son by a former wife, and having then to wife Dame Margaret, daughter of Edward Earl of Derby, by whom he had three younger sons, viz., Edward, Hugh and Robert, and taking into consideration the security and quiet of Dame Margaret, with whom he had great substance, and the preferment of his said three sons, desired to entail his lands upon them and their heirs male, after his own death, if the said John should die s.p., and to this end bound himself in a statute bond of great value to some of the friends

<sup>1</sup> In 1599 Edward Poyntz, Esq., suffered a fine of lands in Tockington to John Jones, Esq. probably in connection with this marriage. Ped. Fin., 41st Elizab. Trinity.



of Dame Margaret, and caused his son Sir John Poyntz to enter into a statute bond of £10,000, which was defeased, that if Dame Margaret should survive him she should enjoy for the term of her life the manor of Iron Acton, &c., according to certain indentures cited, previously made; and also that she should enjoy all the tithes of the parsonage of Iron Acton for a term of years as had been before assigned to her use, without any hindrance of John Poyntz. Also that John Poyntz, within two years after the death of his father, should pay £500 as Sir Nicholas Poyntz should appoint by his will, and also that Hugh and Robert Poyntz, his sons, should enjoy all messuages limited and expressed in an indenture made before the acknowledgment of the said statute. After that Sir Nicholas Poyntz made his will, dated 22nd June 1585, and gave the education of his three sons to Lady Margaret, and appointed them his executors, providing that if Lady Margaret should die before they reached the age of twenty-four years, then William Veale, Robert Chambers, Maurice Torre, and Gyles Dymerie should be executors until they attained that age; and that if these executors should extend the statute they should have £400 and the residue to remain to his three sons. The will was proved by Lady Margaret, who not long after made her own will and appointed Edward Poyntz executor, and died. He thereupon proved the will and became entitled to all the interest his mother had under her husband's will, and ought to enjoy the tithes, &c. of Iron Acton, but Sir John Poyntz has interrupted therein, and hath failed to pay the £500 bequeathed under his father's will.

He alleged also that Sir John Poyntz became further indebted to him for divers goods which he had of him and divers sums of money lent unto him to the amount of £500 which Edward Poyntz gently required of him, but could never get, though he paid the use of the same to others.

He further alleged that Sir John had done grievous wrongs unto him and has forfeited the statute of £10,000, the extension of which he, Edward Poyntz, had procured at a cost of £200.

Sir John Poyntz being greatly indebted to divers persons amounting to £10,000 for which many of his friends and neighbours entered into bonds, whereby he greatly endangered himself and encumbered his estate, and so was enforced to convey the manor of Hill to one Henry Fleetwood, Esq.<sup>1</sup> The friends did entreat Edward Poyntz to assign his interest therein. Sir John having only one son, Robert, yet living, Edward consented to do so. Sir John however,

<sup>1</sup> In 1604 Sir John Poyntz, Knt., and others suffered a fine in the manor of Hull or Hill, to George Huntley, Esq., and others. This was perhaps by way of mortgage. Ped. Fin. 2nd James, Easter.

without Edward's knowledge, leased the manor of Tockington to George Smythes, of London, Gent., for twenty-one years at a small rent.<sup>1</sup> This he opposed and was threatened with a suit in Chancery, &c. Sir John being further indebted to Her Majesty and other persons had no means to redeem the said lease or pay his debts, and he Edward did not resist the sale of Tockington to Nicholas Dymerie, who gave the sum of £2700 for it, and Sir John has lately mortgaged the manor of Iron Acton to Nicholas Dymerie which he is not able to redeem.

Robert Poyntz combines with Sir John Poyntz and Lady Grissel now his wife, the said Robert having married the daughter of the said Lady Grissel, and is dwelling with Sir John Poyntz and claims £1000 as due to him.

Sir John Poyntz in his answer, sworn at Iron Acton 25th January 9th James, states that he hath two male heirs now living, who only, and none other, are dampnified by his sale of lands. He averreth that he hath never interfered with the jointure of Dame Margaret, nor impeached the estate left by Sir Nicholas Poyntz to his younger sons; that he hath paid Edward Poyntz £700 for the household stuff, &c., by him bought of the executors of Sir Nicholas Poyntz, and denies that he owes him any sum of money whatever.<sup>2</sup>

The Earl of Salisbury wrote to John Osborne, Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, on 20th July 1609, directing him to make out commissions to enquire as to the goods of, *inter alia*, Edward Poyntz of Thockington, co. Glouc., a recusant, the benefit of whom was granted to Sir John Cowper.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps this was the same gentleman who is mentioned by Foley as the *Mr.* Poyntz dwelling in the Forest of Dean and brother of Sir John Poyntz, who was reported by the Sheriff of Herefordshire as keeping in his house two Jesuit priests, and as being himself altogether Jesuited.<sup>4</sup>

We have already given some account of the marriage of Edward Poyntz of Caerleon, and the names of his issue. He made his will (nuncupative) on 3rd October 1613, in which he mentions all his children. Some few of the bequests may be just noticed. To his eldest son Nicholas Poyntz, his best suit of apparel, his gilded sword and dagger, with his gilded spurs, and the tester of a bed, redd, yellow and green colours, embroidered with the *eagle and child* (the Stanley crest), nine table pictures of kings, queens, and such like; to Mary his wife a greate table picture, being his own portraiture. These articles, we

<sup>1</sup> In 1605 Sir John Poyntz and others suffered a fine in the manor of Tockington to William Berblock and others, and in the same term he suffered a fine in the manor of Iron Acton to Thomas Staunton and others. Ped. Fin. 3rd James, Trinity.

<sup>2</sup> Chancery Proceedings James I., Bundle 9, No. 54, Edward Poyntz *versus* Sir John Poyntz.

<sup>3</sup> State Papers, Domestic, vol. xlvii, No. 43.

<sup>4</sup> Foley's Jesuits, vol. iv, p. 371.

conceive, were a portion of the household stuffe, &c. which he purchased of the executors of the will of his father Sir Nicholas Poyntz, mentioned by his brother Sir John, as stated above. Will proved 10th September 1615 (81 Rudd).

Nicholas Poyntz, eldest son of Edward Poyntz of Caerleon, settled at Penrose in Monmouthshire. He was twice married. His first wife was . . . daughter of Talbot Badger. He married secondly Jeonett, relict of John Richard Edmunds. He left three sons, Rowland, John, and Nicholas, of whom the two elder, at least, were by his first wife.

Rowland Poyntz the eldest son was of Llanarth, co. Monmouth, but he appears from certain proceedings in Chancery in 1696<sup>1</sup> to have been then resident in the town of Monmouth, and there is a Chancery decree relating to him dated 20th December 1699. He was a party to other Chancery proceedings in 1701 but they are not of much interest beyond the identification of his children, for which purpose we propose to use them in the tabular pedigree hereafter. He was thrice married, but we have no knowledge of his first wife beyond the fact of her existence, and she died without issue. Bridget Robnett, whom he married in 1642, is described in the Chancery proceedings referred to above as his second wife. She died about 1649, and a certain Margaret is described as his third wife. He left two sons, Nicholas by his second wife and Rowland by his third.

We do not know the exact date of the death of Rowland Poyntz, the elder, but it must have been soon after 1650. On the 18th January 1653-4, Sir Robert Poyntz, Knt., petitioned the Committee for Compositions, at Haberdasher Hall, stating that he had a kinsman, one Rowland Poyntz, of Llanarth, co. Mon., Gent., lately deceased who left one son Nicholas Poyntz, an infant, who is about eight years of age, to enjoy his estate, which estate is under sequestration by reason that the infant's father was a popish recusant but never in arms, and the said Rowland within two years last past took the oath of abjuration before the Committee of sequestration.<sup>2</sup> Sir Robert prays that the said infant may be discharged from the burden of sequestration, who had nothing of his father's estate but what fell unto him by the death of his mother, who was an heir, and after the death of his said mother the infant was admitted tenant to the estate, being customary land within the lordship of Goldcliffe, Monmouthshire. Margaret Poyntz, mother and guardian of Rowland, also petitioned on his behalf, representing that the estate being copyhold is held in right of Bridget, then wife of Rowland Poyntz of Llanarth, who died about four years since, and

<sup>1</sup> Collins 550.

<sup>2</sup> The date of the oath of abjuration of Rowland Poyntz, of Llanarth, was 17th April, 1651.

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fell by his death to Nicholas Poyntz her son. Afterwards Rowland Poyntz married Margaret his second wife, and conveyed the residue of his estate to the petitioner Rowland Poyntz. We do not know the result.

John Poyntz, the second son of Nicholas Poyntz of Penrose, was a man of a base and despicable character. In the Civil War he attached himself to the Parliamentary party, from whom he claimed certain arrears of pay which he was unable to obtain. On 16th June 1652 he brought a suit in the exchequer against James Coxe and John Thomas. He pleaded that Jeannette Poyntz (his own stepmother) whom he affirmed to be a Papist, and who died eight years previously, made her will and appointed John Thomas her executor, he being her nephew and next of kin. He renounced in favour of John Coxe. It appears that John Poyntz was indebted in £40 to the estate of Mr. Poyntz, and that these proceedings were taken to avoid the payment, he averring that in consequence of his stepmother's recusancy the estate lapsed to the Commonwealth. It is satisfactory to know that he did not succeed. It was decided that the estate was due to the Commissioners of sequestration, and he being unable to pay the amount due from him was imprisoned.

We find a petition from him dated the 21st August 1655 addressed to the Protector. He represents that he held the degree of captain, and that his three sons had served faithfully for ten years in England, Scotland, and Ireland, that he had due to him £240 of arrears, that he had spoilt his estates in long looking after it till he was forced for want of it to trail a pike under Colonel Ingleby ever since June 15th last twelvemonths, and begged that the Haberdashers' Hall Committee might be ordered to examine in his presence some persons who held concealed moneys and give him an allowance to pay what he claimed. The persons he denounced were Mary Morgan, Caerleon, Papist, John George of Llanerhangal, John Thomas and James Coxe, who have seized the estate of Jeanette Poyntz, widow and a Papist, who died without children.

We shall not follow this worthless character further, suffice it to say that after the Restoration he got himself appointed the Deputy of the Clerk Controller of the Revels of England.<sup>1</sup>

We must now revert to Hugh Poyntz, the second son of Sir Nicholas Poyntz, who was born in 1578-9. He matriculated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, 22nd October 1591 as the son of a knight in Gloucestershire, then aged twelve years. He died on the 11th and was buried at Iron Acton on the 13th March 1604-5, aged twenty-six, s.p. He made his will on the 9th March 1604-5, in which he describes himself as Hugh Poyntz of Tockington Park. In it he names,

<sup>1</sup> Brit. Mus. Addl. MSS. 19, 256.

his brother Robert Poyntz, to whom he gives his sword hatched with silver; his niece, Mrs. Dorothy Peny; his sister in law, Mrs. Mary Poyntz; Elizabeth Pointz, his niece, daughter of his brother Sir John Pointz, and his brother Edward, whom he appoints residuary legatee and executor.<sup>1</sup>

Robert Poyntz, third son of Sir Nicholas Poyntz and Lady Mary Stanley, was born in 1580. Matriculated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, 22nd October 1591 with his brother, aged ten. He was twice married, but whether or not he left any issue does not appear. His first wife's name was Ann, and he married secondly, at Iron Acton on 17th December 1627, Elizabeth daughter of William Walsh. She was a native of that parish, having been baptized there on 3rd December 1609, and she was there buried 12th January 1631-2.

Sir John Poyntz, son and heir of Sir Nicholas Poyntz in 1586, presented to the Rectory of Iron Acton, as he did again in 1593. On 1st February 30th Elizabeth (1588) the Queen granted the whole Forest and Chase of Exmore and the custody of the same, with all fees, rents, pensions, and other its appurtenances to John Poyntz of Iron Acton, Esq., Elizabeth his wife, and Elizabeth their daughter, for their several lives, at the annual rent of £46 13s. 4d. per annum. This grant was confirmed on 1st November 1588 in the Letters Patent for which he is described as "Knight." Sir John Poyntz was Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1591, and in the same year he was appointed Surveyor General of the Duchy of Lancaster, and in the following year was returned to Parliament as one of the knights for the shire of Gloucester. In 1597 he purchased the castle and manor of Beverston of John Berkeley, Esq., but he soon afterwards sold it again to Henry Fleetwood, Master of the Court of Wards. On the 18th June 1612-3 he was appointed by Privy Seal to be Chamberlain of the Exchequer. Madox says the Chamberlain seems anciently to have had the custody of keys belonging to the coffers of the Tallies.<sup>2</sup> In 1617 he petitioned the king for the farm of the Fines and Recognizances, &c., to be levied by Green Wax summons of the Pixe and other processes, and stated that he is willing to give the average profit and 500 marks per annum additional.

Sir John Poyntz was married four times. First, in 1578, to Ursula, daughter of Sir John Sydenham of Brimpton co. Somerset, by Grace daughter of Sir William Godolphin, by whom he had no issue. He married secondly, in 1582, Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Sydenham of Luxborough co. Somerset, cousin of the aforesaid Sir John Sydenham, by Ann Sydenham sister of the said Sir John, by whom he had issue: 1, Dorothy; 2, Elizabeth; 3, Frances; 4, Robert (afterwards Sir Robert Poyntz son and heir); 5, Hugh; 6, Nicholas;

<sup>1</sup> Prob. 18th June 1605 (38 Hayes).

<sup>2</sup> Hist. of the Exchequer, Chap. xxiv, Sec. 10.

and 7, John. Dame Elizabeth died in childbed, and was buried in St. Margaret's, Westminster, 7th December 1595.

Sir John Poyntz married thirdly, Frances, daughter of John Newton, Esq., second son of Sir John Newton of Barr's Court, co. Gloucester, by whom he had no issue.

He married fourthly, at St. Olave's, Hart Street, London, on 2nd June 1600, Grissell Roberts, daughter of Walter Roberts of Glassenbury co. Kent, Esq., (relict, successively of Gervase Gibbons, and Gregory Price of Dormington, Herefordshire, Esq.), by whom he had issue: 1, Frances; 2, Ann; 3, Mary; 4, Nicholas; (5, Charles?).

There is nothing special to be stated in regard to the numerous issue of Sir John Poyntz, except as regards Robert who succeeded him, of whom presently, and Charles of whom hereafter, beyond what will appear in the tabular pedigree. Sir John Poyntz was buried at Iron Acton, on 29th November, 1633. We are unable to find any Inquisition post mortem, Will, or Letters of Administration to his effects. We have already seen from the suit of his brother Edward that he was in pecuniary embarrassment in 1612. Previously to this in January 1609-10 one Edmund Mollineux and Ursula his wife exhibited a bill in Chancery against him concerning a legacy bequeathed to Ursula by her father John Sydenham of Nympsfield, Gent., and her mother Mary Sydenham. Sir John admitted his indebtedness as executor, and was ordered to pay the amount, but being unable to pay the full sum, he agreed under a bond of £700 to pay £10 per annum to Ursula for every £100 due to her, and to pay interest on £360 to Edmund Mollineux. On some hard occasion he failed to fulfil this obligation, and incurred the forfeiture of the bond. Edmund Mollineux served Sir John with a writ of execution and he was imprisoned.<sup>1</sup> In another Chancery suit in 1619 he was arrested on a bond for £100. In these circumstances it is probable that he died intestate and insolvent, and that his heirs entered upon his settled estates, and as these were not held in capite no Inquisition post mortem was necessary. Sir John Poyntz was buried at Iron Acton on 29th November 1633, and was succeeded by his son and heir.

Sir Robert Poyntz was the son of Sir John Poyntz by his second wife Elizabeth Sydenham, was baptized at Iron Acton on 26th October 1588, and matriculated from Brazenose College, Oxford, on 15th March 1604-5 as son of a knight of Gloucestershire. He is stated to have been then aged fifteen years, but he would appear to have been over sixteen years of age. Anthony Wood states that he studied at one of the Temples and wrote *The Vindication*

<sup>1</sup> Chancery Proceedings, Bund. 14, No. 5, Poyntz v. Mollineux.



of the *Monarchy* in 1651. He was made a Knight of the Bath in February 1625, on the coronation of King Charles I. In this year he was elected one of the Knights for the shire of Gloucester, and in 1629 was appointed one of the Commissioners for assessing the subsidy, his colleague being John Smyth of Nibley.<sup>1</sup> He served the office of Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1637.

Sir Robert Poyntz was twice married. His first wife, whom he married at Iron Acton, on 13th June 1604, was Frances, the eldest daughter and coheir of Gervase Gibbons of "The Pump" in Benenden, co. Kent, by Grissell Roberts (who married secondly, Gregory Price, and thirdly, Sir John Poyntz father of Sir Robert), and at the time of her marriage was under sixteen years of age. Her two sisters and coheirs Elinor and Grissell who married respectively, Elinor, and Grissell, Sir John Lawrence of Iver, co. Bucks, created a Baronet in 1628. Several Chancery suits arose between the parties concerning the coheirs' estates, in one of which, in Easter term, 1636 Sir Robert Poyntz was guilty of some rudeness to the judge, Sir Richard Hutton, and the Lords of the Council directed the Warden of the Fleet to take into his custody the person of Sir Robert, and to keep him in prison until further order. Upon his expression of sorrow for his indiscreet carriage towards Justice Hutton, and Sir Richard having received an apology from him, the Lords directed that he should be restored to liberty.<sup>2</sup>

On 14th January 1638 Sir Robert Poyntz, K.B., and Edward Ridge, Alderman of London, were appointed for the management of the Lottery authorized by the King for the use of the aqueduct undertaken by Sir Edward Stradling, Sir Walter Roberts and others.

Sir Robert Poyntz married to his second wife, Cicely Smith, by whom he had an only son named John, who succeeded him. Sir Robert Poyntz made his will, "written with my own hand," on 12th June 1653, in which after declaring his allegiance to his sovereign, and thanking God for his preservation in the "orthodoxall" faith and religion formerly established in the Church of England, he bequeaths liberal sums of money to the poor of several parishes, and gives legacies to several persons, and all his books, manuscripts, and papers to his son John, to be carefully kept and preserved until he shall accomplish the age of twenty years; he constitutes his wife the Lady Cicely his executrix and residuary legatee, who proved his will on 12th July 1665.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Berkeley MSS. Vol. III, fo. 9.

<sup>2</sup> State Papers, Domestic, Ch. I., May 1637, vol. ccclv. 79, 90, 105, 125.

<sup>3</sup> P.C.C. (121 Mico).

Though Sir Robert Poyntz states in his will that he had maintained his loyalty to his sovereign he does not appear to have taken any active steps in the King's defence. His lands, however, were sequestrated on a charge of delinquency in that he had deserted his house and dwelt in Bristol whilst it was a garrison for the King. It was also charged against him that he had neither taken the covenant nor the negative oath. The proceedings in this case reveal to us the value at this time of his estate. It is stated that he was seized of an estate for life as tenant by courtesy after the death of Dame Frances his wife, deceased, of certain lands in Benenden, Tenterden, and Rolvenden in Kent, of the annual value of £74. That by virtue of several conveyances by him made upon the marriages of Margaret and Grissell his two daughters and heirs, whereof Margaret married Thomas Gorges, Esq., in 1623, and Grissell married Thomas Porter, Esq., in 1640, he is seized of a free tenement for life, remainder of the two several moieties to his said two daughters, their husbands and their issue in tail, remainder in fee to his own right heirs. It is also stated that he was seized of the manor of Iron Acton with appurtenances of the yearly value, before the wars, the demesne and the park £80, and in old rents £50. It is further stated that he hath also a park of coarse wet grounds of 100 acres, never let for any rent but kept still for deer, value about £25. He was never in arms, and hath the articles of the surrender of Bristol, and his Excellency's the Lord General's pass thereupon.<sup>1</sup>

Sir John Poyntz, only son of Sir Robert Poyntz, by his second wife Cecily Smith, was born in 1645. He matriculated at Oxford as from Oriel College, on 22nd July 1658, aged thirteen, described as the eldest son of a Knight. He himself received the honour of Knighthood on 24th February 1665-6. On 7th July following a warrant was issued for creating him a Baronet, but it does not appear to have proceeded any further, why we know not. Possibly Sir John in his pecuniary circumstances declined the honour through prudence, though prudence was not one of his virtues, for he seems to have been as reckless in his affairs as his father and his grandfather had been, and got himself entangled in several Chancery suits. Sir Robert Poyntz his father by an assurance in law, in November 17th Charles II., conveyed to trustees the mansion house, gardens, &c., of Iron Acton, and a moiety of the manor to the use of himself for life, and after his death to the use of Cecily Lady Poyntz for her life, with remainder to his son John Poyntz and his heirs, and the other moiety to his said son. In this year (1666) this moiety was claimed in

<sup>1</sup> Royal. Comp. Papers, 2nd Series, vol. xxxvii, fo. 197.

Chancery by one Richard Hastings, Esq., who it is alleged sometimes styled himself Knight and at other times Baronet, who had married Margaret one of the sisters of the half blood of Sir John Poyntz in virtue of, as alledged, a deed of settlement as security for the payment to the said Margaret of £1000 which Sir John had failed to pay. What the result of the suit was does not appear, but a private Act of Parliament was passed in this year for settling the moiety of the manor of Iron Acton upon Sir John Poyntz, and Sir Richard Hastings, whose title of Baronet is admitted by Courthope, died circa 1668, s.p. In 1673 a patent was granted to one Eustace Brown of Westminster, Gent., for using and exercising a new invention and art of making of French or Pearl Barley, which on 13th August, 14th Charles II., was assigned to Sir John Poyntz and others. Afterwards a part of this patent was assigned to one Edward Nelthorpe of London, Merchant, of whom Sir John Poyntz complained in Chancery in 1673 that the said Nelthorpe had not rendered him any account.

In 1666 Sir John Poyntz married Ann, daughter of Robert Caesar of Williams, co. Kent, he being then of the age of twenty-four, and she of eighteen years.

By this lady he had no issue, and by his will dated 23rd April 1680 demised to her his capital messuage with appurtenances of Iron Acton and all his lands and manors whatsoever in the several parishes of Iron Acton, Acton Ilger, Frampton Cotterell, and Lattesedge to her sole use for ever, provided, nevertheless, that if his nephew John Poyntz Porter, Esq., should within two years after testator's death pay and clear off all mortgages &c., and should by conveyance or deed assure unto the said Dame Ann Poyntz the annual sum of £300 for her natural life, the said devise should be to the sole use of the said John Poyntz Porter and his heirs, and in default of such heirs to the joint use of "His Grace James Duke of Ormond, my most noble and honorable kinsman, and of my kinsman George Penny of Penny Toller, co. Dorset, Esq."

Sir John Poyntz died in October following, on the 17th of which month he was buried at Iron Acton, and his will was proved by his relict, on the 20th December 1680.<sup>1</sup> Thus the senior branch of this ancient house, after an honourable existence in England for upwards of six centuries, and of the possession of the manor of Iron Acton for more than 350 years, to say nothing of its previous possession by their ancestors the Actons, became impoverished, and the second time extinct in the direct male line.

By deeds dated respectively on 23rd May 1682 and 15th September 1682, James Duke of Ormond and George Penne of Toller, Esq., in consideration of



a nominal sum paid to them by Lady Ann Poyntz, released and confirmed to the said Lady Ann by indenture of bargain and sale the manor of Iron Acton with all its appurtenances, to hold to her and her heirs for ever (inrolled in Chancery Rot. Claus. 35th Charles II. Parl. 15.)

John Poyntz Porter did not pay off the incumbrances and acquire the manor, and within a short time it was sold by Dame Ann Poyntz to one William Player, Esq.;<sup>1</sup> nevertheless she retained in fee some tenements therein, and by deed dated 17th June 1726 inrolled in Chancery, in which she is described as of Watford, co. Herts., in conjunction with certain her trustees, in consideration of the love and affection which she had for her niece Juliana Gage, and for her nephew Julian Rampayne, demised to the trustees before alluded to such tenements for the lives of the said Dame Ann Poyntz and Juliana Gage, in trust to pay the interest of £200 to the mortgagee of the said premises, and to apply the residue to the use of such persons as the said Dame Ann Poyntz by any writing should appoint, and then to the sole use of Julian Rampayne. Dame Ann Poyntz, then described of Watford, widow, made her will on 10th February 1728-9, and after bequeathing some trifling legacies devised the whole residue of her estate to the aforesaid Julian Rampayne, who proved her will on 5th June 1730.<sup>2</sup> She died on 23rd June 1729, and was buried at St. Katherine's Church, Regent's Park, London, where monuments to her and her sister, bearing the following touching inscriptions, yet remain.

Here lyeth the Lady Ann, Widow of Sir John Poyntz of Iron Acton in the County of Gloucester, who died June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1729. Her Great Grandfather was Sir Charles Cæsar of Bennington Place in the County of Herts, Kn<sup>t</sup>. Master of the Rolls to King Charles I, whose Father was Sir Julius Cæsar Master of Requests, and Judge of the Admiralty to Q. Elizabeth, Chancellor and Under Treasurer of the Exchequer, and Master likewise

<sup>1</sup> William Player almost immediately resold the manor to Sir Simon Astry, who devised it to his widow, afterwards second wife to Simon Harcourt, Esq., who held it 1712, and was Lord High Chancellor of England 1712, created Viscount Harcourt 1721. Sir Philip Parker, a family which took the name of Long through a marriage with Rebecca, sister and at length heir of Sir Walter Long of Whaddon, co. Wilts, next bought it, and it was sold in 1846 by Mr. Walter Long of Rood Ashton, M.P., to Mr. Joseph Blackwell of Nailsworth, and it is now vested in Mr. George Blackwell in right of his wife, a Miss Sims, grand-daughter and heir of Mr. Joseph Blackwell. We may mention that the court farm has been tenanted by the ancestors of Mr. John Nichols, the present occupier, born in 1808, to whom we are indebted for some of the above information, during five generations in lineal descent.

<sup>2</sup> P.C.C. 170 Auber,

of the Rolls and one of the Privy Council to King James I and King Charles I. of which ancestors she was truly worthy.

The Table next adjoining shows  
How much her sisters death she mourned,  
And this how faithfully her love  
Is, by that sister's son returned.

Adjoining is a monument to Johanna, the wife of John Rampayne, Gent., and daughter to Robert Cæsar, Esq. She died in childbed 15th December 1694. The Epitaph was written by Lady Ann Poyntz.

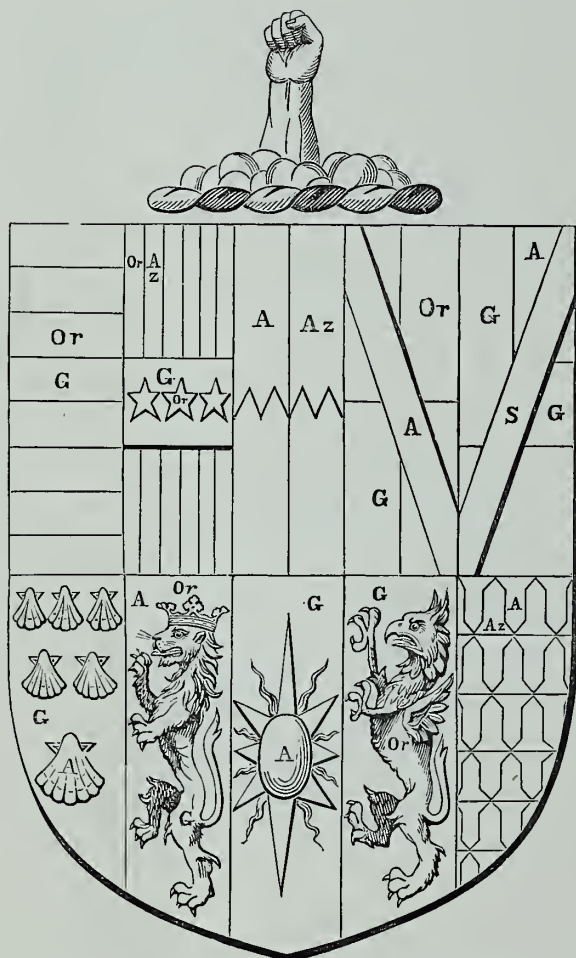
Passenger, stay ! this richest Grave  
A small small delay may justly crave—  
Virtue adorn'd with wit and Beauty,  
Religious Love, Conjugal Duty,  
In this small cabinet lyes enshrined  
While Glory gilds her purer mind.  
Both her Parents near her lye,  
And bear her reliets company,  
Kind Death which used Friends to part  
Joined these, who living, had one heart.  
Renoun'd Sir Julius Cæsar lent  
Unto them all noble Deseent—  
Dying she did a son bequeath  
In whom she lives in spite of Death—  
Thus when th' old Phenix sweetly dyes,  
The new does from her ashes rise.  
Her Husbands love this Monument rears  
Her sister writes these lines with Tears.

Domina Anna Poyntz scripsit.

## PEDIGREE OF POYNTZ OF IRON ACTON.

TABLE III.

(Continued from page 29).



1. Poyntz.
2. Clanvowe.
3. Acton.
4. Fitz Nichol.

5. Wydville.
6. Scales.
7. St. Paul.

8. De Beaulx.
9. Unknown.
10. Beauchamp.

Margery, da. of ..., Dead 24 Feb. 1375-6, 2 wife. = Sir John Poyntz of Iron Acton, son of Sir Nicholas Poyntz, 2nd Baron, of Cory Malet by his 2nd wife Matilda, co-heir of Sir John Acton, and heir of his mother. Was granted in 1343 *inter alia* the Manor of Iron Acton to him and Elizabeth his wife and their heirs. Sheriff of Gloucestershire 1363. Presented to the Church of Iron Acton 1369. Died 21 Sep. 1376. (Inq. p.m. 1 Rich. II, No. 29).

Katherine, da. and coh. of Sir Thomas Fitz Nichol of Hull and Nympefield, co. Glouc. Bur.\* M.I. (See ante, p. 54). = Robert Poyntz, Esq., of Iron Acton, born at Denchurch in Irchenfield, co. Hereford, and baptized there on Saturday in the Vigil of the Trinity 33 Edward III (1359). Of full age 23 May 1380, and had livery of his lands. Sheriff of Gloucestershire 1397. Presented to the Church of Iron Acton 1400, 1420. Died 15 June 1439. Bur.\* M.I.

Maurice Poyntz, a matricide.

Blanch.

Isabel, mar. Robt. Staunshaw.

Joan, mar. William Dodington, Esq., as his first wife.

Elizabeth, da. of Sir Edw. Mill of Harescombe, 1 wife. = Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Iron Acton, Kt., son and heir, Knt. for the Shire of Glouc. 1431. Died 1449.

Elizabeth, da. of Sir Henry Husey of Harty, co. Sussex, 2 wife.

A

B

Thomas Poyntz of Frampton Cotterell, died 1458. Admo. 12 Feb. 1458-9. = Jane, relict of ... Harewell.

Margaret Poyntz, mar. Ralph Grevill, only son of William Grevill of Milcote. Bur. at Wroxton, Oxon.

Ellen Poyntz, a nun at Glastonbury.

Isabel, mar. Rich. Foster of Sudbury.

Alice, mar. John Crossley.

Robert Poyntz of Wyke, died 1470. Will dated 26 Nov. 1470, to be buried in the Church of Friars Preachers, London, s.p.

Sybil, exor<sup>t</sup> to her husband's will, which she proved 7 Feb. 1470 (Wattis), rem. Humphry Forster, whose wife she was in 1472-3. (Rot. Claus. 12 and 15 Edw. IV.)

\* At Iron Acton.



A		B	
John Poyntz, son and heir, aged 16 years on his father's death. Had livery of seizin 28 Oct. 1460. Dead before 1467-8. (Rot. Claus. 7th Edw. IV.)	Alice, da. of John Cock of Bristol or of John Cox of Skinfrith, co. Mon., who had an assignment of dower 1467-8. Sheremar. Sir Edward Berkeley of Beverston, Kt., as his second wife. Died 29 Oct. 1507. Inq. p.m. 1 Hen. VIII.	Humphry Poyntz, 2 son, of Elkston, of which he had a grant in tail male 4 May 1473, died 10 Oct. 1487.	... da. of ... Pollard.
		Alice Poyntz, mar. Maurice Denys of Olveston. Bur. there. M.I.	Elizabeth, a nun at Shaftesbury.
			Margaret, mar. John Lisle, or Lisle, of Sussex.
			Johanna, wife of Wm. Dodington of Woodland.
Anne Poyntz, mar. 1 Edward Yardley, 2 Rob. Berkeley of co. Hants.	Elizabeth Poyntz, nurse 1510-11 to the son of Henry VIII by his Queen Katherine. The child died in infancy.	... Poyntz, mar. John Codrington.	Maurice Poyntz of St. Thomas, Bristol. Will dated 9 Oct., prob. 4 Nov. 1501. Names his wife Elena (3 Blamyr).
James. Maurice.	Thomas Poyntz, Esquire for the King's Body at the christening of Prince Arthur, Steward of the Hund. of Bisle, Keeper of the parks of Barnesley, Brymfield, & Miseden, co. Glouc., ob. s.p. 1501.	Johanna, relict of Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers of Chartley. Inq. p.m. of Tho. Baynham, Rich. III and Hen. VII, No. 178.	Nicholas. Henry Poyntz, =? Alice, relict of mar. cir. 1478. William Carpenter of Bristol. His will dated 3 Mar. 1459-60. Proved at Bristol.
Sir Robert Poyntz, son and heir, aged 17 on his father's death, made Knight Banneret at the battle of Redmore, 1 Hen. VII, immediately after King Rich. was slain (Cott. MS., Claud. iii). Sheriff of Gloucestershire 1469, 1480, jointly with Sir William Berkeley 1483, solely 1484, 1494, 1500. Chancellor to Queen Kath. of Arragon. Inq. p.m. 12 and 13 Henry VIII, Excheq. Died 4 Nov. 1520. Will dated 19 October previously. Adm. to Anthony his son 1523 (28 Ayloffe).			
Ann Poyntz, 2 wife of Sir John Walsh, Kt., of Little Sodbury, Champion of Hen. VIII, mar. settl. 25 Jan. 1496. His will dated 25 Jan. 1498-9. Proved by his relict Ann, June 1547. She mar. 2ndly Robert Bulkeley of Burgate, co. Hants.	Elizabeth Poyntz, 1 wife of Nicholas Wykes of Doddington.	Katherine Poyntz, mar. Sir Owen Perrot. He died 1513.	Margaret Poyntz, mar. Sir John St. Lac, Kt., of Tormarton, co. Glouc. He was bur. at St. Helens, London, 23 Mar. 1558-9. Will pro. by his relict Margaret 10 Ap. following (4 Cheyney).
John Poyntz of Alderley, = Elizabeth, da. of Sir Mathew Browne of Beechworth, co. Surrey. Inq. p.m. 36, 37 Hen. VIII, No. 12, Excheq.	Sir Francis Poyntz, Esquire of the King's Body, named in his father's will. Died 26 June 1528. Bur. at Hunsdon s.p.m. Inq. p.m. 20, 21 Hen. VIII, Exch., No. 2.	Joan, da. of Sir Mathew Browne of Beechworth Castle, co. Surrey.	Nicholas Poyntz, died 27 Sep. 1512. Bur. Grey Friars, Lond.
See Table V.			
Joan Guildford, relict of Sir Richard Guildford, Kt. Rot. Pat. 10 Hen. VIII.	Sir Anthony Poyntz, Kt., son and heir, of Iron Acton, born 1480, aged 35 years on his father's death. Kntd. Sheriff of Glouc. 1507, 1522, 1527. Died 1535. No will or adm. traced.	Elizabeth, da. and coh. of Sir William Huddesfield, Kt., of Shillingford, co. Devon, by Katherine, da. of Sir Philip Courtenay, Kt., 1 wife, named in her mother's will 1510 as "my daughter Elizabeth Poyntz." Sir Anthony Poyntz sold Shillingford to John Southcote.	
7. Margaret Poyntz, mar. Sir John Newton of Barrs Court, co. Glouc., Kt., and East Harptree, co. Som. His will proved 17 Nov. 1568 by Dame Margaret his relict. M.I. East Harptree.	8. Mary Poyntz, mar. Sir Edward Gorges of Wraxall, co. Som., Kt., pre-deceased her husband. His will at Wells. He died 11 Feb. 1565. Bur. at Wraxall.	5. Robert.	2. Gyles Poyntz, ob. s.p.
		6. Thomas. Named in their grandfather's will as dead in 1520.	3. Ferdinando Poyntz. Not named in grandfather's will.
Sir Nicholas Poyntz, Kt., of Iron Acton, Groom of the Bedchamber, Sheriff of Glouc. 1538, 1544. Knt. of the shire 1547. Will proved 8 July 1557 (22 Wrastley). Inq. p.m. 3 and 4 Philip & Mary, Part 2, No. 51.			
Joan, da. of Thomas, Lord Berkeley, who in his will names "Johan Poyntz my daughter." She mar. 2ndly Sir Edw. Dyer. Died 31 March 1563.			

C

7. Jane or Joan Poyntz, mar. 1568 as 1st wife of John Seymour, afterwards knighted, bastard bro. of Lady Jane Seymour, consort of King Hen. VIII. His will prov. 4 Aug. 1599 (69 Kidd).	8. Frances Poyntz, mar. Sir John Berkeley of Beverston. She was bur. at Beverston 27 Aug. 1576.	Anne Poyntz, mar. Sir Thomas Heneage, Kt., P.C. and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, &c. She died 30 Nov. 1594. His will prov. 13 Nov. 1595 (70 Scott).	Francis Poyntz, = Jane Stawker. and bro. Nicholas' wills, living 1587, of Thornbury.	3 Anthony, living 1585. 4. Edmund, ob. Paris 1568. 5. John. 6. William, bur. at St. Margaret's Westm. 20 Feb. 1607-8.
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All named in their father's will.

Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Iron Acton, Kt., aged 21 on his father's death 1558. Sheriff of Glouc. 1569. Kt. of the Shire 1571. His will, dated 22 June 1585, made "when he was about 50 years old." Prov. 15 Feb. 1586-7 (42 Brudenell). Died at Iron Acton 1 Sep. 1585. Inq. p.m. 28 Eliz., Part 2, No. 81.	Anne, da. of Sir ? Ralph Verney of Penley, co. Bucks, Kt., mar. contract 12 May 1555.	Margaret, da. of Edward Stanley, 3 Earl of Derby. Will dated 5 April, prov. 3 June 1586 [31 Windsor].
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D  
Vide page 97.

Ursula, died unmarr.	Sir John Poyntz of Iron Acton, Kt., aged 25 years on his father's death, Sheriff of Glouc. 1591, Kt. of the Shire 1592. Bur. at Iron Acton 29 Nov. 1633. Mar. four times: 1 wife, Ursula, da. of Sir John Sydenham of Brimpton, co. Som., Kt., mar. settl. dat. 16 July 1578; 3 wife, Frances, da. of John Newton, 2 son of Sir John Newton of Barrs Court. She was bur. at Iron Acton 1 Nov. 1599. Will (nuncupative) prov. 14 June 1600 (49 Wallop). No will or adm. for Sir John Poyntz found either in P.C.C. or at Gloucester.	2. Elizabeth, da. of Alex. Sydenham of Luxborough, Som., cousin of Sir John, mar. settl. 10 Feb. 1581-2. In his will Alex <sup>r</sup> names his son-in-law Mr. John Poinés, adm. of Hen. Sydenham to Lady Eliz. Poyntz, as next of kin and to Sir John Poyntz her husb. She was bur. at St. Margaret's, Westminster, 7 Dec. 1595. Died in childbed.	Grissell, da. of Walter Roberts of Glassenbury, Kent, relict of Gervase Gibbons (ob. 1595) and Gregory Price, mar. at St. Olaves, Hart Street, London, 2 June 1600. Living 1640. Adm <sup>o</sup> 28 Jan. 1647-8.	Mary Poyntz, mar. 1 Francis Codrington of Frampton on Severn, co. Glouc. His will proved 28 Oct. 1581 (36 Darcy), mar. 2ndly John Sydenham of Nimpfield, co. Glouc. His will prov. by Mary his relict 5 Jan. 1590-1 (1 St. Barbe). Bur. at Iron Acton 7 Oct. 1591. Will prov. 27 Nov. following (87 St. Barbe).
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Charles ? See post.  
Table IV.

Frances Poyntz, bap. St. Dunstan's in the West, Lond. 3 April 1601, ? mar. ... Gifford, Chanc. Proc. Ch. I, Bnnd. 8, No. 36.	Ann Poyntz, bap.* 29 Aug. 1802, mar. 3 Feb. 1628-9 Isaac Bromwich of Gloucester, Esq.	Mary Poyntz, bap.* 27 Sep. 1604, mar.* 1st 12 May 1636 John Walter; 2ndly, Walter Bethell. He died 1 Nov. 1686, bur. St. Laurence, York. M.I.	Nicholas Poyntz, born ... 1607, matric. from Magd. Hall, Oxon, as son of Sir John Poyntz, Kt., 31 Jan. 1622-3, æt. 16. Living at Tickenham 1640. Died 11 Feb. 1650-1, bur. in the Savoy, Lond. Will lost.	Eleanor, only child and heir of Rice Davis of Tickenham, Som. by Mary Pitt, relict of Robert Owen of Bristol, and 3rd wife of Rice Davis, mar. 1638.
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Eleanor, only child and heir, mar. 1st Edmnd Ashfield; 2ndly, Richard Glanville. Her will proved 21 April 1709.

Dorothy Poyntz, mar.* 14 April 1600 John Peny of East Coker, Som. who was born 1563 and died 1613, named in the will of her uncle Hugh Poyntz as "my niece Dorothy Peny."	Frances Poyntz, bap.* 1 Feb. 1586-7.	Hugh Poyntz, bap. St. James, Clerkenwell, 14 July 1590.	Nicholas Poyntz, bap. 15 July 1591, alive in Mar. 1604-5, bnt died young.	Elizabeth Poyntz, mar. 1 Thomas, Viscount Thurles, who died 15 Dec. 1619, 2ndly George Mathew of Thurles.	John Poyntz, bur. at St. Margaret's, Westminster, 10 Dec. 1595, three days after his mother.
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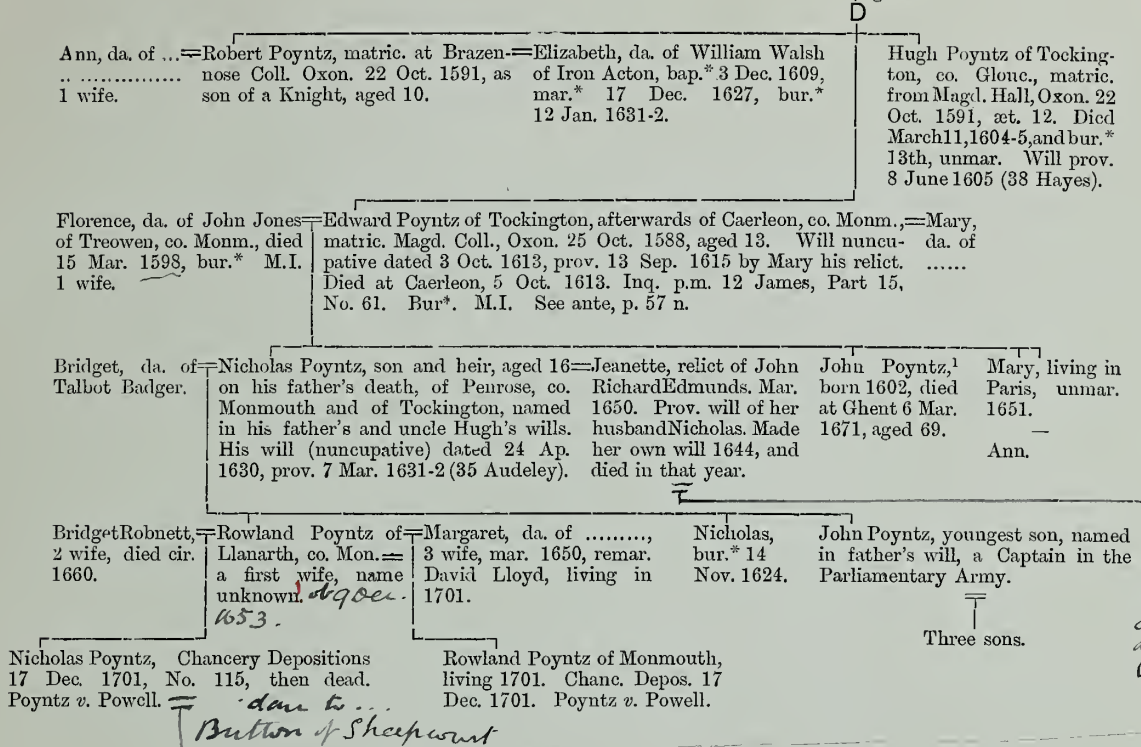
Frances, da. of Gervase Gibbons of Benenden, Kent, mar.* 13 June 1604, died 13 Mar. 1637-8 (Inq. p.m. 15 Ch. I, Part 4, No. 16).	Sir Robert Poyntz, Kt., bap.* 26 Oct. 1588, created Knight of the Bath at coronation of Charles I, matric. from Brasen-nose Coll. Oxon. 15 Mar. 1604-5, Kt. for the Shire of Gloucester 1625 and 1628, Sheriff 1637. Will dated 10 June 1653, prov. 12 July 1666 (121 Mico).	Cecilia, da. of ... Smith of Acton, bur.* 14 Sep. 1678. Will dated 13 Aug. 1678, prov. by Frances Bynner her sister 5 Oct. following (115 Reeve).
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Grissell Poyntz, bap. at Reigate, Surrey, 7 Nov. 1608, mar. 1640 Richard Porter, son of Sir Thomas Porter, Kt.	Margaret Poyntz, mar. 1st 10 Dec. 1632 Thomas, son of Sir Robert Gorges of Redlynch, mar. settl. dated 8 Dec. 1632, 2ndly, at St. Bartholomew the Less, Lond. 16 Feb. 1646-7 Sir Richard Hastings, Bart., 3rdly at Wells 24 Sep. 1669 Sam. Gorges of the Inner Temple.	Sir John Poyntz of Iron Acton = Ann, da. of Robert Caesar of Williams, co. Herts, mar. lic. Faculty Office, 27 May 1667. He aged 24, she 18, mar. at St. Peters or St. Margarets, Westminster, died 23 June 1729, bur. at St. Katherine's, Regent's Park, Lond. M.I.
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\* At Iron Acton.



Vide page 96.



\* At Iron Acton.

<sup>1</sup> This John Poyntz, *alias* Stephens and Campion, after his humanities at St. Omer's College, entered the English College at Rome for his higher studies on 29 Sep. 1621 as a convictor under the name of John Campion, and after affording a bright example of every virtue, left the College for England 17 Sep. 1624. He entered the Society of Jesus at Watten the same year, and was professed of the four vows 4 May 1640. In 1639 he was Professor of Sacred Scripture at Liege, and was sent to the English Mission in the same year, serving in the College of St. Xavier (Hereford and North and South Wales District) for several years, and, when Missioner at Hereford, was connected with the relics of St. Thomas of Hereford, receiving them in charge from Father Alexander Cuffand (*alias* Day), also a Missioner at Hereford, and depositing them in St. Omer's College Church in 1668. In 1649 he was in the London District, and in 1655 was declared Rector of Ghent. On 13 May 1659, Rector of the English College, Rome, and in 1663 Rector of the College of Liege. He died at Ghent 6 Mar. 1671. (Foley's Collectanea Soc. Jesus. vol. vii, p. 628).

The following extracts from the Bollandists' Acta Sanctorum, vol. xlix, tom. i, p. 540, October, relate to the St. Omer relic. It is a letter from John Poyntz:—

"This sacred pledge, which, wrapped up in green ribbon, I left at Paris in the year of our Lord Christ 1651 Nov. 12 in charge of my sister Miss Mary Poyntz, I John Poyntz priest S. J. attest to be one of the bones of that great Prelate, most renowned for miracles, St. Thomas of Hereford, whose feast in the Roman Martyrology is celebrated on the 3 October. This precious jewell (together with the head and other relics of this Holy Prelate, which was preserved by the Catholics until these times with pious veneration, although secretly) was at length torn from them in the year 1642, when the Parliamentary forces under the command of the Earl of Stamford took Hereford. However by the pious exertions of a Catholic lady, Mrs. Ravenhill, at that time residing in Hereford, it was recovered. From whence I, the said John Poyntz, received this remarkable portion of so great a treasure from Father Alexander Cuffand, also a priest S. J., and I deposited it in the charge of my sister, Miss Mary Poyntz, at Paris, in order that, should any thing happen to me, it might be delivered to the Very Reverend Father Provincial of England for the time being.

"JOHN POYNTZ S. J.

"priest."

In other documents he is described as John Stephen Poyntz, S. J.



## APPENDIX.

### ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF SIR ROBERT POYNTZ, KNT.

In the name of Almighty God. Amen. Dated October 19, 1520.

Robert Poyntz Knt. Manors lands goods &c. in the City of Gloucester and in the Towne of Bristol and suburbs of the same &c. To be buried in the Church of the Gaunts beside Bristol in the Chapel of Jesus which latelie I have caused to be new edified and made of my costs and charges on the south side of the Chauncell of the sayde Church and the over part thereof behynde the Presbitery there, that is to witte, in a vawte in the same thereunto redy prepared and ordeyned. Mine Executors to provide a fyne small marble stone to be laid over the myddes of the Vawte with a scripture making mention of all the bodies that lye buried in the same vawte, and of the days and yeares of their decease.<sup>1</sup> To the High Altar of the Parish of Iron Acton for my tithes forgotten and to be paid for them 40<sup>s</sup>. To the mother Church of Worcester 6s. 8d. The said New Chapel which I latelie edified is not in all things perfected and furnished yet according to myne intent, that is to wytte in glasyng of the windows thereof and making of two pews within the said Chapel, in the lower end of the same, myne Executors shall fynish and perform all the same things being yet undone, and also shall garnish the same Chapel with certain images, and the aulter of the same with aulter clothes, vestments, book and chalys, and with all other things thereunto necessary. A gowne of blake velvett of myne and a gounne of blake velvett of my late wife, which gounne she by her will ordeyned to be made into vestments, shall both by myn executors be made into a sute of vestments of the best and most convenient manner with myne armes and with fystys also imbroydered, holding tufts of flowers of rosys, margarets, and pouncies, to garnish and powder the same, and with scripture also upon them to be set, making mencion of the givers of the same Vestments, which Vestments shall be delyvered by myne said Executors as of my Gift and of my wyffe to the said Church of the Gaunts for a remembrance there to be prayed for.

To my son John Poyntz, all my plate, hangings, bedding, chambering, naprye and other stuff of household which be and remayne in my lodging in London within the Grey Friars. To my son Francis Poyntz all ditto in my Manor of Hill, Glouc., the

<sup>1</sup> Barrett, in his "History of Bristol," treating of the Jesus Chapel in the Church of St. Marks's Hospital, says, "Under the floor is a large vault, the entrance of which in 1730 fell in, and upon examining the corpses there deposited, supposed to be those of the founders of the Church, there was found a gold bodkin entangled in some hair" (345). One of the bodies, we learn from a note in Mr. H. Smith's illustrated copy of Barrett, was that of a female clothed in white satin, having her robes fastened on the breast by a very handsome gold clasp, which was taken by, and, as I am informed is now (1825) in the possession of Mrs Becher, in College Green. These must have been the remains of Dame Margaret, wife of Sir Robert Poyntz for whose obsequies, with his own . . . . . he richly endowed the chapel and the church of the Gaunts," by his will dated 19 Oct. 1520. (Evans' "Chronological Outline of the History of Bristol," p. 311. See also Pryce's "History of Bristol," 144; and "Bristol Past and Present," vol. ii, 187).

standardys of household being in the same only except; also to Francis all such plate that I had of the said Francis, which he had of the gifte of the French king. To Margaret Poyntz my daughter, for her advancement and preferment in marriage 300 marks sterling, and also 50 marks sterling for her apparel, to be paid to her at marriage, by the advice of my brother Thomas Poyntz, of my son Anthony Poyntz, and of my Executors. If she refuse to be so ordered she shall have only 100 marks. All my plate jewells &c. not bequeathed shall be sold by my Executors of which plate &c. my son Sir Anthony Poyntz Kn<sup>t</sup>. shall take as moche thereof at reasonable prices by indifferent appraisement as shall lyke him to, for redy money by him to be paid.

My Feoffees and Recorders of and in my manors of Iron Acton, Ilger, Frampton, called Gastelyn, Stanshawe, Glouc., and messuages in the same, and Winterbourne, Hambrook, which I lately purchased of John Grevyll and John Walsh Esq<sup>re</sup>., Yate, Dodyngton, Wapley, Old Sodbury, Westerley, Tydrington and Stedycote, Glouc., for the use of Anthony Poyntz, Knt., my son and heir, provided they shall find a priest to sing for the souls of Thomas and Robert Poyntz late of Frampton Esq<sup>re</sup>, and for my soule. I discharge all other manors recorded against me by Lord Cardinall and others, for the contentation and payment of the debts I owe to our Sovereign Lord the King, Feoffees and Recorders of and in my manor of Alderley and advowson of the same, and in a messuage in Tresham, called Westcote, and all messuages, lands &c. in Alderley for the use of my brother Thomas Pointz during his natural life, without any thing paying therefrom. If my lady Ferrers wife of my said Brother should die then, &c.

Manors of Lytell Marshfield, 4<sup>th</sup> part of the manor of Brokynborowe, Elkeston, Hinton, Stounden, Winterbourn, Hambroke, &c. I am seized of lands, &c., in Wodeland, Almonsbury; Stanshawe, Charfield, Huntingford, Hawkesbury, Leighterton, Glouc. The Master of the House of Gaunts to take the issues of the same to provide an honest and considerable Priest to synge Masse at the altar in the said Chapel of Jesus, and to pray for the souls of me and dame Margaret my late wife, and Robert and Thomas Poyntz, sons of Sir Anthony Poyntz my son, for the souls of our ancestors and all christian soules, the said priest to have for his salary six pounds. A solemn obit for my soule to be kept in the said church of the Gaunts on the day of my departing, in the evening Placebo and Dirige by note and on the day following Mass of Requiem by note, and four tapers of waxe, every of them a pound weight, be brenninge upon my herse about the crucifix at all times during the said Dirige and Masse, and 6s. 8d. to be distributed in alms to the poor. The said priest shall always be tabled and lodged within the same house of the Gaunts, &c.

My brother Thomas Poyntz, John Fitz-James, Esq., attorney to the King's Grace, Robert Bekensalle, D.D., almoner to the Queen's Grace, Thomas Matson, and Charles Bulkeley to be executors. To my daughter Margaret 50 marks besides what I have bequeathed to her. A pair of vestments to the churches of Iron Acton, Alderley, Elberton, and Hill. Money bequeathed for the highway between Acton and Bristol. (No date of proof).

State Papers, 1523. Sir Anthony Poyntz, administrator of Sir Robert Poyntz of Acton, Glouc. Return of £40 which the said Sir Robert along with Bradston had bound themselves for Sir Alexander Baynham, sheriff.

## IRON ACTON MANOR HOUSE.

The ancient Manor House of Iron Acton probably consisted of a central building, facing east and west, with north and south wings, forming a portion of three sides of a quadrangle. The eastern elevation of the present central building was figured by Lysons eighty years ago, and his view we reproduce on Plate I. Scarcely any change, externally, seems to have taken place in it since. The three-light Perpendicular window at the north side is traditionally said to have lighted the domestic chapel, or oratory. We are, however, very doubtful upon this point. The whole area at the south end of the building originally formed one very spacious apartment, though it is now divided by a modern wall, forming a portion of it into a stable, leaving a passage at the back leading to the part supposed to have been the chapel. That part is now used as a cellar, and we do not find any remains therein, such as a piscina, in support of the tradition. Nevertheless, if it were used merely as an oratory, probably it never had a true altar, and a piscina would not be required.

The eastern front, which contained the principal entrance, is approached through a large rectangular courtyard, measuring from east to west about 165 feet, and from north to south about 120 feet, having a handsome arched entrance of late date, the spandrils of the gate-way being filled with carved ornamentation in low relief of the Poyntz crest and sprigs of oak-leaves and acorns. The elevation of the western façade is very similar to that of the eastern, except that it is connected at the north end with a wing extending north and south, and is rendered more picturesque by having, in the angle thus formed, a semi-octagonal tower which contains a good newel stair-case, the stairs of which are composed of solid blocks of oak.

Entering the building from the eastern front, we find a wide passage straight through the house, having on each side solid walls. On the left is the large apartment above mentioned, to which there were probably two doorways of good workmanship, one on each side of the room, but that against what is now the stable is built up. In the wall on the right remains the old buttery hatch, shewing that the kitchen and other domestic offices were on that side.



From the western courtyard there is another special entrance to the north wing, having over the door a shield of the Poyntz arms. This wing would appear to have been shortened at west end, or at least the wall has been rebuilt, for in the walling are inserted stones, irregularly, bearing the date A.D. 1642. This wing must have been an important portion of the building, and perhaps contained the state apartments. The rooms are handsome, large, and well lighted, especially on the upper floor.

On the upper floor of the south end of the main building, over what we conclude was the hall, there was also a spacious room. The roof of the whole building is of solid oak. It is constructed on the queen-post principle, but of a rough character, without any ornamentation. The rooms were all ceiled. About three feet below the original ceiling of the room we have last mentioned, a modern ceiling has been constructed, between which and the upper ceiling there are remains on the walls of decorations painted *in tempera*. The walls below have been repeatedly whitewashed.

There must have been an important family seat here as early as the thirteenth century, though doubtless it had been, from time to time, altered, and perhaps partially rebuilt. Sir Robert Poyntz, we have seen, entertained King Henry VII here in 1486, as did Sir Nicholas Poyntz Queen Elizabeth in 1574, but we are unable to trace in the existing structure any work of early date. The whole of the old mansion would appear to have been taken down and rebuilt in the early part of the seventeenth century, most likely by the last Sir Robert Poyntz, who was created a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of King Charles I, and died in 1666. He probably impoverished the estate by these extensive works, and thereby commenced that ruin of his family which his reckless and prodigal son completed.

The mansion for the last 200 years has been converted into a farm-house, for which purpose it was, and indeed still is, vastly too large, notwithstanding that a great portion of it has been taken down and removed. Even, almost within living memory, at least within 100 years, the process has been continued, and it is thought that the ashlar work of which the Fives-Court in the village green is constructed consists of some of the materials of the old mansion. The interior of what remains has also undergone extensive alterations and is so filled with modern partitions that, in the time at our disposal for its inspection, we were unable to form any very clear idea of its original arrangements.

## CHAPTER IV.

POYNTZ OF BRENOCK AND ACTON IN THE COUNTY OF  
ARMAGH, IRELAND.

We must now advert to the family of Poyntz of Brenock and Acton in the County of Armagh, who claim descent from Sir John Poyntz of Iron Acton, who died in 1633. The ancestor of this family was a certain Charles Poyntz, Gentleman. In the year 1610, under that designation, he received a grant of one balliboe of land in Brenock, and the third part of Listray balliboe, in all 200 acres. These lands were erected into a manor called Brennoge, with 100 acres in demesne, and a Court Baron, to be held to him and his heirs for ever of the Castle of Dublin in common socage at a rent of £1 12s. per annum. He held a commission in the Royal army in Ireland.

It is stated by the Rev. Charles Hill<sup>1</sup> that "this Undertaker, only then for a short time in the servitor class, was a son of Sir John Poyntz of Acton in Gloucestershire. Although he had very small beginnings in the Barony of Orier, he proved a very active and influential settler, naming his little estate, which soon became larger, after the old family residence of Acton in England. The two balliboes mentioned in the small grant lay in Orriereightra, bounded on one side by the river Bann." Sir George Carew reports in 1611, as cited by Hill, that "Lieutenant Charles Poyntz has 200 acres as servitor, and has provided timber and materials for building."

In 1616 he was associated with Sir Arthur Chichester, at which date there is a King's letter authorising Sir Arthur to accept the surrender of the lands of Lieut. Charles Poyntz, held by patent or purchased, and to regrant them to him again in one patent. In 1618 he had a much larger grant of lands, and all were erected into the manor of Acton. Captain Nicholas Pynnar reports in 1618-19 that "upon Lieut. Poynt's lands there is a Bawne of 80 feet square, the lower part thereof to be of stone and clay, with a house in it, but he, not liking of the seat, hath begun a Bawne of 100 feet square with three Flankers and a large house, all which shall be of brick and lyme, which there is now in the place with workmen labouring very hard and is undertaken to be finished by August."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Historical Account of the Plantation of Ulster 1608-1620."

<sup>2</sup> Pynnar's "Survey of Ulster."

Mr. Poyntz would seem to have been an active and energetic man. He was one of the Commissioners, jointly with Sir F. Annesley and Sir Edward Trevor, appointed by the King's Commission dated 27th January 1623, concerning the County of Armagh, to make a return of the names and number of the Irish that on the 12th December previously, or at any time afterwards, were inhabiting upon the several proportions of the British undertakers, their agents, tenants, and farmers, within the County of Armagh, and what rents and other duties they performed, and what quantities of land each of them held.<sup>1</sup>

Near Scarva there is a spot called Poyntz's Pass, formerly an important military position, which derived its name from its having been forced, after a desperate action, by Lieut. Poyntz of the English army with a few troops, against a numerous body of Tyrone's soldiers.

His services were so far recognised that on 13th June 1630 he received the honour of knighthood from Adam, Viscount Loftus, Lord Chancellor, and Sir Archibald Boyle, Earl of Cork, then Lords Justices of Ireland.<sup>2</sup>

Sir Charles Poyntz was actively concerned in many of the stirring scenes of the turbulent period of the Irish Rebellion of 1641. He, with Sir Edward Trevor and others, was seized by Sir Con McGennis and imprisoned for twenty-seven weeks in the Castle at Newry, an interesting account of which is given in a small quarto, entitled "A True Relation of the Chief Passages in Ireland, from the 25th April to this present;" London, 14th of May 1642. It is stated that on the 5th May 1642 news came to the Lords Justices by Captain Cadogan that the Newry was not only taken from the Rebels by Lord Conway with the assistance of Robert Munroe, the Scottish General sent to Ulster, but also the Castle and Town of Carlingford. Narrow-Water Castle was recovered soon afterwards, in which they "found the old Viscountess of Evagh, daughter of the old arch-rebel Hugh Earl of Tyrone, Sir Edward Trevor, Sir Charles Poyntz, Captain Henry Smith, and seven others that were taken prisoners and close kept in the Castle of Newry, who were all relieved and are now going at their liberty."

Sir Charles Poyntz married Christine, sister of Sir Marmaduke Whitchurch, Knt., who was Sheriff of the County of Armagh in 1607, and on the flight of the Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell, in the same year, was appointed one of the Commissioners for the government of their Counties. By his will, dated 18th June 1634, Sir Marmaduke made his "good brother" Sir Charles Poyntz trustee, and bequeathed to his "dear sister Dame Christine Poyntz, £10, also

<sup>1</sup> "State Papers, Ireland, Jas. I," p. 483.

<sup>2</sup> Additional MSS. No. 4784, p. 202, Brit. Mus.



five marks for a ring," and to his "nephew Edward youngest son of Sir Charles Poyntz £5 to buy him a nagg to ride upon."<sup>1</sup>

Sir Charles Poyntz died in 1661, intestate, and on the 28th May in that year letters of administration were granted to Toby Poyntz, the lawful son of the deceased, as also letters of acquittance by the Archbishop of Armagh on 15th December 1680.

Sir Charles had three sons, Chichester, Toby, and Edward, abovementioned. Chichester, who would appear to have been the eldest born, matriculated at Oxford as from Trinity College, described as son of Sir Charles Poyntz of Armagh, Knt., on 27th November 1635, aged 17. He would appear to have died soon afterwards. He is not named in the will of his grandfather, Sir Marmaduke Whitchurch, and we have no further knowledge of him; nor does Edward appear again.

Toby Poyntz on his father's death succeeded to his estates. He was M.P. for Newry from 1639 to 1641, and was Sheriff of Armagh in 1644. He seems to have served on the Royalist's side until after the King's death, as we find several entries of lands granted to Lieutenant and Captain Tobias Poyntz. In 1662 he received the honour of Knighthood from the Duke of Ormonde. And on 10th August 1655, Captain Tobie Poyntz, in consideration of the sum of £400 and a horse worth £20 to be paid to him by Captain Hans Hamilton, and of £156 14s. 4d. to be paid to him in pure coin, sterling English money, enfeoffed the said Hans Hamilton in certain lands at Tullymore,<sup>2</sup> &c. He married Rose, eldest daughter, and coheir with her sister, of Theophilus Buckworth,<sup>3</sup> Bishop of Dromore, by Sarah, daughter of Arnold Usher, one of the Six Clerks in Chancery at Dublin, and sister of the famous James Usher, Archbishop of Armagh. By his will, dated in 1652, the Bishop of Dromore demised to his eldest daughter, Rose, all his lands in Leeah, co. Down.<sup>4</sup>

In the Dublin Record Office there are references, too numerous for detail here, to be found on the Patent Rolls and Inquisitions for the County of

<sup>1</sup> Sir Marmaduke left two daughters, Elinor and Frances. Elinor married 1st John Symonds of the co. of Armagh, and 2ndly Sir Faithful Fortescue. (See Inq. of Ulster 8th September 1637. Record Commissioners' Publications.) Frances married in 1635 Marcus, eldest son of Sir Edward Trevor, Viscount Dungannon.

<sup>2</sup> This Tullymore Park is now the seat of the Earl of Roden.

<sup>3</sup> The Rev. Anthony Buckworth, Vicar of Louth and Rector of Killincoole, in his will, dated the 20th August and proved 22nd October, 1664, names "his cousin Dame Rose Buckworth, wife of Sir Tobias Poyntz." The arms of Buckworth, Sa. a lion rampant guardant per fess Or and Erm., are impaled with those of Poyntz in Ulster's office, Dublin.

<sup>4</sup> Register of Wills, Dublin.

Armagh, relative to the lands of Sir Charles, Sir Toby and Rose Lady Poyntz. In the Carte Papers we find a letter from Sir Toby Poyntz to Sir William Flower, Master of the Horse to the Duke of Ormonde, which does not shew much affection for, or confidence in, his Presbyterian neighbours.<sup>1</sup> He writes from—

Acton y<sup>e</sup> 26 of June 1680

Deare Sir

I sh<sup>d</sup> not have troubled you att this time but I see a sort of People in this country hold up their heads very high, the cause I know not unlesse they expect some Novelties when there Ministers come back out of Scotland (for most or all of the Presbyterian Ministers are now gone to Scotland to what end I know not); Butt I c<sup>d</sup> wish that the Council w<sup>d</sup> serve them as we are wont to serve madd doggs—that is when they are out of doors to shut them out. I have writ to Charles Poyntz to see to get you a great haucke. I hope to furnish you with marlins. I have one marlin and a Cast of Halks which were in an Aerie under my house. But I have sent to enquire after more.

I am Sir

Your most fay. & most humble servant

To. Poyntz

The Presbyterians in our Country are very high & sturdie I hope they intend no mischief.

For Sir William Flower

One of H.M. Most Hon<sup>ble</sup> Privy Council

at his lodgings, Dublin.

There are also various letters, &c., relative to the family calendared in the Salisbury and Ormonde Collections, vol. vii of the Historical Commissioners' Reports.

Sir Toby Poyntz died in 1685, leaving by his wife Rose three children: Charles, his son and heir, Sarah and Christian. By his will, which is preserved at Narrow-Water Castle,<sup>2</sup> dated 1st January 1684-5, he provides that in case of the failure of heirs male his lands, &c., should go "to the heir general of the Poyntz's in England, whose name is now I believe Robert Poyntz in Somerset, being issued of my father Sir Charles Poyntz's eldest brother."

The alleged Popish Plot, invented by that infamous scoundrel Titus Oates,

<sup>1</sup> Carte Papers, vol. 45, p. 358: Bodleian Library, Oxford.

<sup>2</sup> We are informed that this will is not to be found in the Dublin Record Office, as Irish wills, dealing with real estate, need not be there proved or registered.

though discredited by the King and Council, was warmly espoused by the Earl of Shaftesbury and his associates as favourable to the carrying out of their own designs. Though Oates was convicted of perjury and imprisoned, and so remained for a dozen years until he was pardoned and granted a comfortable pension in 1689 by William III., the pretended plot created great excitement in England, which extended with more force into Ireland, it being stated that the Duke of Ormonde, who for the second time had just been appointed Lord Lieutenant, was to be murdered and that a general massacre of Irish Protestants was concerted. Ormonde himself had no belief in Oates, yet he saw that the most disastrous consequences might arise among an inflammable people from the mere rumour of so formidable a conspiracy. His measures for the public safety were taken with much wisdom and moderation, but representations were made to England of his leniency to the Catholics, and Lord Shaftesbury, who would hesitate at nothing to effect the ruin of Ormonde, brought the state of Ireland before the House of Lords, and though he failed in this measure he succeeded in obtaining orders from the English Council which would, he hoped, embarrass the Irish Government and possibly excite a rebellion, which was what the English Government appeared to desire. The Irish protestants were stirred up. Letters were dropped in Dublin intimating a design to assassinate the Lord Lieutenant, and various threatening reports were set afloat designed to reach his ears. His anxieties were increased by the insurrection in Scotland. He was, at all times, more apprehensive of the Presbyterians than of the Papists, and he suspected that the Scottish insurgents had correspondence with their brethren in Ulster, which, from Sir Toby Poyntz's letter above, we know he had much reason to fear. The result of the battle of Bothwell brig, however, relieved his mind upon this point.

We learn from Sir Robert Cecil's letters to Sir George Carew, when the latter was Lord President of Munster,<sup>1</sup> that the most unscrupulous and diabolical measures were taken, with the sanction of an English Secretary of State, we refrain from saying the English Government, against the unfortunate Irish; but we were not prepared to believe that even so late as 1681, nearly 100 years afterwards, the same enormities were committed if not with the sanction at least with the connivance of high English officials in Ireland. The Duke of Ormonde was, we believe, an upright, chivalrous, and honourable man, and we cannot for a moment conceive he would personally sanction such criminal atrocities. Charles Poyntz's letter<sup>2</sup> shall speak for itself.

<sup>1</sup> Letters of Sir Robert Cecil to Sir George Carew, printed from Lambeth MSS., 604: Camden Society, 1864.

<sup>2</sup> Printed vol vii, "Report of Commissioners on Historical MSS.," p. 709.



Acton, the 3<sup>d</sup> of May 1681.

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir,

I hold myself obliged to give you thanks for all your favours, but particularly for your friendly representation of my concerne, in the destruction of that grand rogue, Redmond O Hanlon, and that you may doe it with the better assurance, I think it will not be improper to give you a particular account of it. About the beginning of December last Art McColl alias Hanlon, who was onc't a servant to my father, and at that time had noe staine upon him, but what his surname brought him came to me and desired to be admitted into my companie. I represented to him the unreasonableness of his request, and how that it would give occasion of discourse to those malicious rascals that had scandalised my father and me as having too much kindness for the Hanlons, but withal I told him that he might doe that service, which would serve the king and cuntry, oblige me, and for ever make him rich, and then proposed this service, which he has now performed as the way to bring all that to pass; att first he boggled att it, but when I had laid doune several wayes to him how it might be performed (and all of them depending upon his associating himself with Redmond), he concluded to undertake it, and swore to accomplish it or die in the attempt, upon which I immediately went to Sir Hans Hamilton, gave him an account of what I had done and desired that he would give him a pass and protection to prevent his being kill'd, should he meet with any soldiers, which Sir Hans readily consented to, and having made me write it he signed it, and I delivered it to Artt's oune hand, who then (with many curses on himself if he fail'd) renew'd his promise to me to perform it, and since often by one in whom we both confided sent me word that he continued firm in that resolution, and that not above six days before he did the service how he came after to be concerned with Mr. Lucas I know not, but am extremely glad that on my account the service was done. I am very far from derogateing anything from the meritt of Mr. Lucasses service, in which I am persuaded he took much pains, for to most of his designes he made me privie, having first shew'd me my L<sup>d</sup> L<sup>ts</sup>. order to him, neither, I hope, will you think that (had the service been done onely by my meanes) I expected any other reward for the performance of it then that my L<sup>d</sup> L<sup>t</sup> and you and all good men should see that my endeavours were not wanting for the serving of my cuntry in the ruine of that rogue, and all such which I hope, by your means, either is or may yett be brought to pass, onely thus much give me leave to say for myself that had not I in that designe first sent

him to associate with Redmund he had not been in a capacitie to have serv'd Mr. Lucas or anybody else. The bearer hereof was by at my agreement with Art, and heard all that I said to him, as alsoe a late agreement that I made with one Fergus MaGeneiss, who has engaged that William O Sheale, who cutt Redmund's head, shall kill Laughlin, and bring his head to me, he may perhaps serve me, as t'other fellow did; but soe the service be done I care not. I hope you will pardon the trouble of this tedious letter, which I thought it my duty you should have from,

Honorable Sir,

Your most obliged and obedient Servant,

CHAR. POYNTZ.

My father is your Servant.

Addressed: "To the Honble. Sir William Flower, Knight, one of his Majesties most honorable Privy Councell at Dublin. These.

Charles Poyntz was shot at Pontaferry, but in what circumstances we have not been able to ascertain, nor do we know the exact date of his death, but it must have been before 1707, for his relict was then the wife of Mr. Savage, as shewn by her son's will. Possibly his connection with the death of "that grand rogue, Redmond O'Hanlon," may have become known, and he became a victim to the revenge of the sept. He died intestate, and on 12th July, 1712, administration of his effects was granted to Edward Lucas, of Shane Castle, probably her brother, to the use of the relict of the deceased.

Charles Poyntz married Lucy, daughter of Francis Lucas, of Shane Castle, co. Monaghan, by a certain Mary Poyntz, but of the parentage of this Mary we have failed to obtain any information. She might have been an unnamed sister of Sir Toby. The Articles agreed upon on the marriage were dated 15th December 1684, and the marriage licence the 20th of the same month, the former being recited in the Indentures of Settlement after marriage, dated 14th and 15th March 1687-8. He had issue an only child named Lucas, who was born in 1688. Lucas matriculated at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1704, as the son of Charles Poyntz, aged sixteen years. He made his will on 2nd April 1707, in which he names his mother, Lucy Savage, and makes bequests to Lieutenant Robert Lucas and Francis Lucas, the latter of whom he appoints his executor.

By the death of Lucas Poyntz, the issue of Sir Charles Poyntz in the male line became extinct, and by the will of Sir Toby Poyntz it would appear that the estates should have devolved upon the heir general of Sir John Poyntz of Iron Acton, the only remaining representatives of Sir Charles Poyntz being Sarah and Christian, daughters of Sir Toby, nevertheless these ladies inherited.

Sarah, the elder, married Col. Charles Stewart of Ballintoy Castle, co. Antrim, He took part under the Earl of Peterborough in the English force employed in the War of Succession in Spain, and remaining there after the earl's departure in 1706 was slain in 1711, and his will was proved on the 10th July in the following year. Their son, the Rev. Archibald Stewart, was Chancellor of the Diocese of Connor. He married Leonora, daughter of John Vesey, successively Bishop of Limerick and Archbishop of Tuam. His marriage licence and his will, the latter dated in 1751, are in the Dublin Record Office.

Christian, the younger, daughter and coheir, married in 1686 Roger Hall of Mount Hall, co. Down, Esq., and in 1709 sold her moiety of the estate to her nephew, Archibald Stewart, of Ballintoy. Their only daughter Rose, born 1687 married first, in 1708, Richard Close, now represented by Col. Close of Drumbanagher Castle, Waringstown, co. Down. He died 10th April 1716, and she married secondly Captain Charles Stewart of the 5th (Lord Molesworth's) Dragoons, and of Wester Cluny, co. Perth. Mrs. Rose Stewart died 11th February 1779, at the age of ninety-two years, and was buried at Lisburne, her husband, Captain Stewart, having predeceased her on 4th June 1774.

For the ancestry and descendants of these members of the Stewart family we must refer the reader to Mr. C. P. Stewart's carefully prepared "Memorials of the Stewarts of Forthergill," privately printed by Johnston in Edinburgh 1881, and also to Burke's Landed Gentry, under Stewart-Robertson of Edradynate.

We have mentioned in the opening of the Memoir of this branch of the Poyntz Family that they claim descent from Sir John Poyntz of Iron Acton, who died in 1633. Considering the embarrassed circumstances of this gentleman (as disclosed ante, p. 83) and his numerous issue, it would not have been improbable that one of his sons should seek his fortune in Ireland, which, at the end of the sixteenth century and the beginning of the seventeenth, was, what our colonies now are, the field of enterprise for the younger sons of the English gentry, where many of them founded opulent families which are still flourishing upon the spoils of the unfortunate Irish. Besides, the splendid marriage of Elizabeth Poyntz,<sup>1</sup> one of the daughters of Sir John, with the Viscount Thurles, the eldest son and heir of Walter Butler, Earl of Ormonde, would have been a great inducement to one of her brothers to try his fortune in that kingdom. If, however, such were the case with Charles Poyntz, it is surprising that his name should nowhere appear in any family document known in England. Unfortunately Sir John Poyntz died intestate, and we have therefore no assistance

<sup>1</sup> There is a portrait of this lady, by Vandyke, in the possession of Lady Nugent, of Ballinlough.

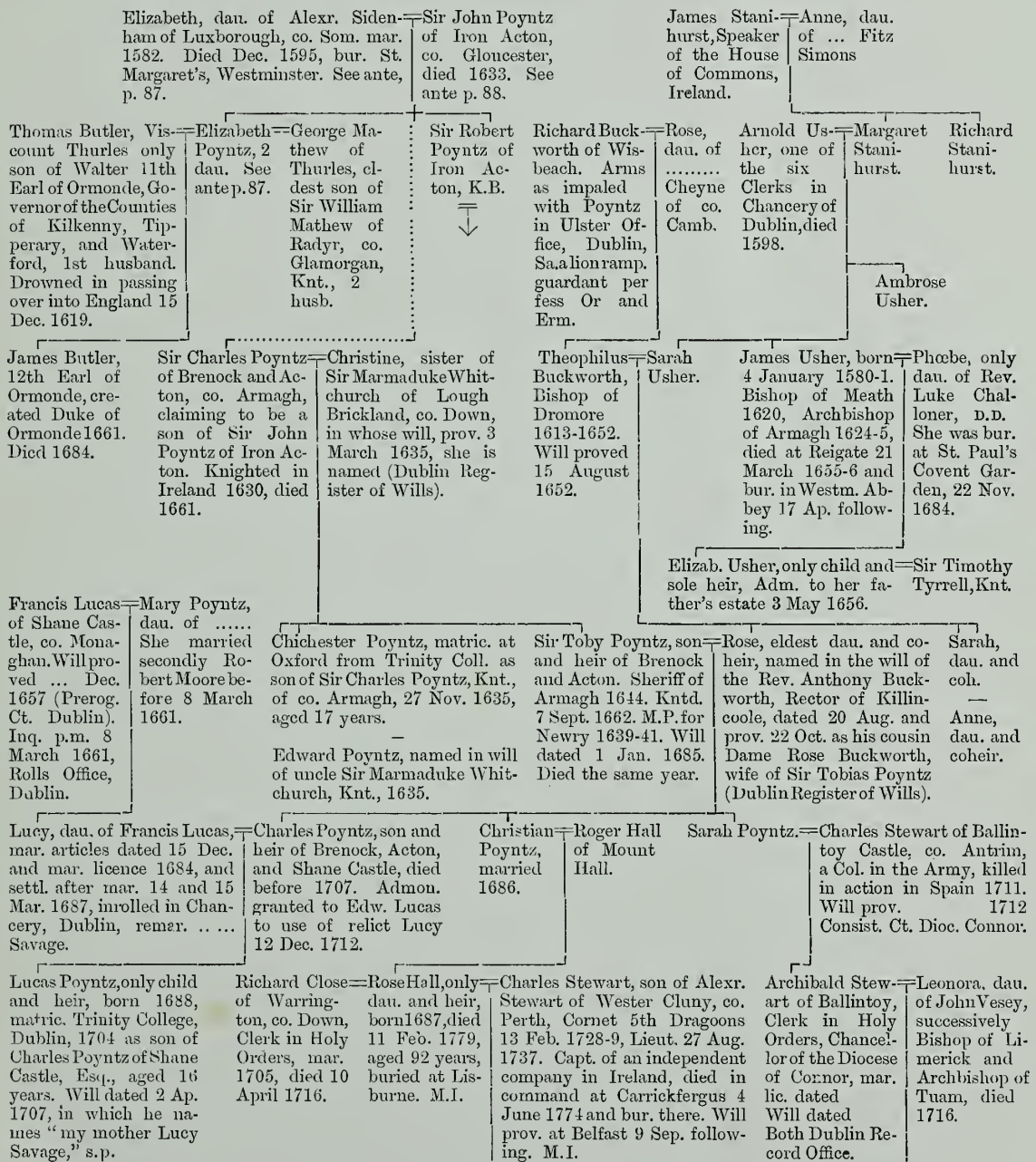


from his will. Sir John Poyntz, as we have seen, was married four times. He first, in 1578, espoused Ursula Sydenham, who died without issue. He married secondly, in February 1581, her kinswoman, Elizabeth Sydenham, by whom he had seven children of whom we know, she died in giving birth to the last on 17th December 1595, and her infant son survived her only three days. He (Sir John) married thirdly, Frances Newton, who died without issue 1st November 1599. His fourth marriage was with Grissell Roberts, by whom he had four children, and it has been alleged that Charles Poyntz was born of this marriage, but that would seem to be impossible, for in that case he could not have been more than nine years old when he was receiving grants of land in Ireland. If Charles Poyntz were a son of Sir John, he must have been born of Sir John's second marriage.

Sir John's eldest born child was Dorothy, the exact date of whose birth does not appear; the next was Frances, baptized 1st February 1586-7; then followed Robert, his son and heir, baptized 26th October 1588; to him followed Hugh, baptized 14th July 1590; Nicholas, baptized 15th July, 1591; Elizabeth, Viscountess Thurles, the date of whose birth is uncertain; and John, born and died 2nd December 1595. Charles could not have been born before Robert, or he would have been the heir, nor much later, or he would not have attained an age to have acquired grants of lands in 1610. There was just room for the birth of a child between the birth of Robert, baptized October 1588, and Hugh baptized July 1590; and if Charles Poyntz were the son of Sir John he must, of necessity, have been born between these dates; and, say he was born in July or August 1589, he would have been of a sufficient age to have received a small grant of land in 1610, and nearly thirty years of age when his son Chichester was born. This may be possible, and the points in favour of it are, first: the circumstance of his giving the name of Acton to the manor into which he was allowed to form his grant of lands in Ireland soon after he acquired it; and the demise by Sir Toby his son in his last will of the final remainder of his estates to the heir general of Sir John Poyntz, in default of heirs male of himself, thus showing, at least, his own belief in his descent from that house. The descent as claimed may be probable, but we cannot say we think it proven.

## PEDIGREE OF POYNTZ OF BRENOCK AND ACTON, CO. ARMAGH.

TABLE IV.











10/30





